

Dirty Laundry

RAPHAEL SATTER
TOM HAYS

Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — Calling it perhaps the biggest money laundering scheme in U.S. history, federal prosecutors charged seven people Tuesday with running what amounted to an online, underworld bank that handled \$6 billion for drug dealers, child pornographers, identity thieves and other criminals around



Mythili Raman, Acting Assistant Attorney General for the Criminal Division of the Dept. of Justice, addresses a news conference, in New York, Tuesday, May 28, 2013.

(AP Photo/Richard Drew)

the globe.

The case was aimed at Liberty Reserve, a currency transfer and payment processing company based in Costa Rica that authorities say allowed customers to move money anonymously from one account to another via the Internet with almost no questions asked. U.S. officials said the enterprise was staggering in scope: Over roughly seven years, Liberty Reserve processed 55 million illicit transactions worldwide for 1 million users, including 200,000 in the U.S.

The network "became the bank of choice for the criminal underworld," U.S. Attorney Preet Bharara said in announcing the unsealing of an indictment against the defendants, including Liberty Revenue founder Arthur Budovsky, an American who renounced his U.S. citizenship after deciding to set up in Costa Rica.

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BROMANCE



President Barack Obama reacts to his introduction by New Jersey Gov. Chris Christie in Asbury Park, N.J., Tuesday, May 28, 2013, after they toured some of the area damaged last October by Superstorm Sandy. (AP Photo/Mel Evans)

Obama, Christie reunite for Jersey shore tour

Michael D. Shear

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POINT PLEASANT BEACH, N.J. - There may have been

no better way to demonstrate that New Jersey's shore is rebounding from the damage caused by Hurricane Sandy than a visit from President Barack Obama and Chris Christie, the Republican governor, to the football toss along one of the state's iconic

boardwalks.

Four throws later, Obama had yet to land a fuzzy teddy bear when Christie lobbed his first ball at "Touchdown Fever" - and scored. The bipartisan high-five that followed was symbolic of the day's effort to highlight the cooperation between state and federal governments in the wake of last year's disaster. "That's because he's run-

ning for office," Obama joked, after Christie's football sailed through the moving tire.

The jovial reunion Tuesday stood in stark contrast to the grim scene six months ago when Obama and Christie joined together for a somber election-eve photo-op, walking through the wreckage of property and lives that Hurricane Sandy had just left behind.

In a light but steady rain Tuesday, the president and the governor worked a rope line along the boardwalk, which had been partly damaged by the storm. The pair talked to a local sand sculptor who is seeking to build the world's largest sand castle as a way of drawing attention - and tourists - back to the region.

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7 charged in \$6B online money laundering case

Continued from front

Liberty Reserve allowed users to open accounts using fictitious names, including "Russian Hacker" and "Hacker Account." An undercover investigator was able to register using the name "Joe Bogus" and the address "123 Fake Main Street" in "Completely Made Up City, New York," and then conduct transac-

computer hacking, child pornography and narcotics trafficking."

Bharara said it was possibly "the largest international money laundering case ever brought by the United States."

Budovsky and another defendant, identified as Azzeddine el Amine, were arrested Friday at a Madrid airport while trying to return to Costa Rica, according

Tuesday morning said the domain "has been seized by the United States Global Illicit Financial Team." Attempts to reach Liberty Reserve by phone and email were unsuccessful.

Budovsky and Kats have previous convictions on state charges related to an unlicensed money transmitting business, according to court papers. After that case, they decided

still had about \$28,000 tied up in Liberty Reserve accounts.

"The irony of this is I went to them because of the security," Rossetti said. "All sales were final."

He acknowledged that the currency was being used by scammers but said Liberty Reserve funds were just like any other currency: "The U.S. dollar can be donated to a church or it can

Beijing: US official in China pushing military ties

**C. BODEEN
Associated Press**

BEIJING (AP) — U.S. National Security Adviser Tom Donilon pushed Tuesday for stronger military relations with China, on the final day of a visit to Beijing to set the stage for a summit next month between President Barack Obama and China's Xi Jinping.

Nontraditional military activities such as peacekeeping, disaster relief and anti-piracy operations offer opportunities to boost cooperation and "contribute to greater mutual confidence and understanding," Donilon told Gen. Fan Changlong, a vice chairman of the commission overseeing China's armed forces.

A "healthy, stable, and reliable military-to-military relationship" is an essential part of overall China-U.S. ties, Donilon said at the start of the meeting at China's hulking Defense Ministry building in central Beijing. Donilon met with a range of Chinese officials over two days to hammer out plans for the June 7-8 summit, the first face-to-face meeting between the presidents since Obama's re-election and Xi's promotion to Communist Party chief last November.

Their informal summit at the private Sunnylands estate of the late publishing tycoon Walter Annenberg in southern California will come months before the two leaders had been originally scheduled to meet, underscoring concerns that the U.S.-China relationship was drifting.

Xi told Donilon on Monday that relations were at a critical juncture, and that the sides must now "build on past successes and open up new dimensions for the future."

Building trust between their militaries is one of the main challenges the sides face in seeking to stop a drift in relations, troubled by issues from trade disputes to allegations of Chinese cyber-spying. □



Preet Bharara, the U.S. Attorney for the Southern District of New York, announces charges against Liberty Reserve during a news conference in New York, May 28, 2013. The operators of Liberty Reserve, which authorities described as one of the world's largest online money laundering organizations and a central hub for criminals trafficking in everything from stolen identities to child pornography, were charged in an indictment unsealed by federal prosecutors Tuesday.

(Robert Stolarik/The New York Times)

tions he recorded as "ATM skimming network" and "for the cocaine."

"The coin of the realm was anonymity," Bharara said. "It was the opposite of a know-your-customer policy."

The network charged a 1 percent fee on transactions through middlemen known as exchangers, who converted real currency into virtual funds and then back into cash.

In the indictment, prosecutors called the network "one of the principal means by which cyber criminals around the world distribute, store and launder proceeds of their illegal activity ... including credit card fraud, identity theft, investment fraud,

to a Spanish court official, who spoke on condition of anonymity because court policy forbids him from speaking on the record. They were ordered jailed while they await a hearing on extradition to the U.S.

Two other men, including Liberty Reserve co-founder Vladimir Kats, were arrested last week in New York City. There was no public record of their arraignments on Friday night, and there was no immediate response to phone messages left Tuesday with their attorneys.

Of the three remaining defendants, one was in custody in Costa Rica and the others were at large there. A notice pasted across Liberty Reserve's website

to move their operation to Costa Rica, the papers said.

In an online chat captured by law enforcement, Kats admitted Liberty Reserve was illegal and noted that authorities in the United States knew it was "a money-laundering operation that hackers use."

While authorities described Liberty Reserve as being rife with criminals, the site's ease of use, low fees and irreversible transactions that deterred fraud also attracted legitimate users. Mitchell Rossetti, whose Houston-based ePayCards.com was one of several mainstream merchants that accepted Liberty Reserve's online-only currency, said his business

pay a prostitute."

Liberty Reserve appears to have played an important role in laundering proceeds from the recent theft of some \$45 million from two Middle Eastern banks, according to documents made public by U.S. authorities earlier this month. In that scheme, thieves stole debit card information and then used it to drain cash from thousands of ATMs around the world in a matter of hours. As part of the Liberty Reserve investigation, authorities raided 14 places in Panama, Switzerland, the U.S., Sweden and Costa Rica. In Costa Rica, investigators recovered five luxury cars, including three Rolls-Royces. □

Derailment, explosion near Baltimore rattles homes

BEN NUCKOLS
Associated Press

ROSEDALE, Md. (AP) — A CSX freight train crashed into a trash truck and derailed Tuesday in a Baltimore suburb and the explosion that followed rattled homes at least a half-mile away, sending a plume of smoke into the air that could be seen for miles, officials and witnesses said.

The train went off the tracks at about 2 p.m. in Rosedale, a Baltimore eastern suburb. Hazmat teams were on the scene, but Baltimore County Fire Chief John J. Hohman said at a news conference that no toxic inhalants were burning and officials did not order an evacuation. The truck driver was taken to the hospital in serious condition and two CSX workers aboard weren't hurt, fire officials said.

Dale Walston said he lives about a half-mile away and that he thought he could smell chemicals. "It shook my house pretty

violently and knocked things off the shelves," he said in an email to The Associated Press.

Even an hour after the blast, the thick plume of black smoke drifted across the Baltimore city line and covered the eastern part of the city. The face of one warehouse near the train tracks blew off.

CSX spokesman Gary Sease said in an email that sodium chlorate is on one of the trains, which the Department of Transportation classifies as a hazardous material.

However, Hohman said the chemical is not in one of the cars that was still burning into the evening. The bleaching agent is used in making paper.

Earlier, fire officials had said buildings had collapsed, but Hohman modified that to say two warehouses were heavily damaged by the explosion and other buildings were harmed, but none collapsed.

An Amtrak spokeswoman said its Northeast Corridor

service is not being affected.

Kevin Lindemann, 29, a salesman for industrial pipe supplier Baltimore Windus-

to a window and saw several cars on their sides and flames he estimated were 50 feet high.

"You could feel the heat as

pretty quick," he said. "We didn't wait around to see what was happening. So as soon as we saw the flames I took a quick pic-



A fire burns at the site of a CSX freight train derailment, Tuesday, May 28, 2013, in White Marsh, Md., where fire officials say the train crashed into a trash truck, causing an explosion that rattled homes at least a half-mile away and collapsed nearby buildings, setting them on fire.

(AP Photo/Patrick Semansky)

trial near the tracks, said he and about 10 co-workers felt the ground shake, ran

soon as you walked out the door," Lindemann said.

"We kind of panicked

ture and got in my truck and drove away. I wasn't sticking around for the explosion."

Everyone left the building and drove several blocks away. Then they heard the explosion, five to 10 minutes after the derailment, he said.

"Even like three blocks away, it was loud. I mean, it just about took you to your knees," Lindemann said.

Hohman said firefighters had considered letting the blazes burn out but later decided to hose them down and as they were, the smoke became a lighter color.

Firefighters were informing residents of about 70 nearby homes that they could leave if they choose and shelter will be provided. However, no one was being forced to evacuate.

Photos showed at least a dozen train cars off the tracks including at least one tanker car. Sease said four of the cars believed derailed carried terephthalic acid, which is used in the production of plastics and polyester, among other things. He said it is not listed as a hazardous material. □

Records:

Teen wrote detailed plans for school plot

J. J. COOPER
Associated Press

CORVALLIS, Oregon (AP) — An Oregon teen accused of planning an assault on his high school wrote detailed plans to "shoot and throw bombs throughout the school," then kill himself before engaging with responding police officers, according to court documents released Tuesday. Police say the plans were written in notebooks that were found hidden beneath the floorboards in the teen's bedroom, along with two pipe bombs, two Molotov cocktails and at least two bombs made with a chemical drain cleaner.

Grant Acord, 17, made his first court appearance by video transmission Tuesday but did not enter a plea on charges that include attempted aggravated murder and six counts each of unlawful possession and manufacture of a destructive device.

Wearing a light-gray sweatshirt and sweatpants with shaggy brown hair covering most of his forehead, Acord said little but

commit an attack" on West Albany High School, according to a probable cause affidavit signed by Albany Police Detective

then retreat to the parking lot to prepare.

At about 11:10, he would begin blasting music from the car while walking toward the school, a napalm firebomb in one hand and a duffel bag in the other.

"Drop duffel. Light and throw napalm, unzip bag and begin firing," the notebook said. "Cooly state: 'the Russian grim reaper is here.'" The line is apparently a reference to the 2003 film "Bad Boys II."

The plan went on: "Throw a smoke bomb prior to walking in. Proceed to enter the school, then shoot and throw bombs throughout the school. Kill myself before S.W.A.T. engages me." The detective wrote that the notebooks indicate that Acord "compares himself to both Eric Harris and Dylan Klebold," the teenagers who killed 13 people at Columbine High School in Colorado in 1999 before turning their guns on themselves. □



Grant Alan Acord, 17, appears in court in Corvallis, Ore., Tuesday, May 28, 2013, in a video feed from the juvenile detention center where he is being held. Acord is accused of attempted aggravated murder and manufacturing and possessing a destructive device.

(AP Photo/Amanda Cowan)

replied "yes, your honor" to questions from Judge Matthew Donohue, who set bail at \$2 million.

Acord's writings included "multiple versions of the plans and diagrams to

Mike Wood. In one, labeled "The (Loosely Stated) 'Plan' AKA Worst case Scenario," the teen lays out an itinerary for an attack: Leave home at 7:30, go to first period,

Justices make it easier for inmates to challenge convictions

ADAM LIPTAK

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WASHINGTON - In a pair of 5-4 decisions that divided along ideological lines, the Supreme Court on Tuesday made it easier for inmates to challenge their convictions.

In *McQuiggin v. Perkins*, No. 12-126, the majority said a one-year filing deadline for prisoners seeking federal review of their state court convictions under a 1996 law may be relaxed if they present compelling evidence of their innocence. The new "miscarriage of justice exception" to the deadline, Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg wrote for the majority, "applies to a severely confined category" - cases in which no reasonable juror aware of the new evidence would have voted to convict the defendant.

The decision did not seem likely to help the prisoner whose case was under review, but the exception it announced drew a barbed dissent from Justice Antonin Scalia, who

called the majority opinion "a series of transparent non sequiturs" and "a flagrant breach of the separation of powers."

on the testimony of Darr Jones, who said he saw Perkins stab a third man in the head in 1993 after they left a house party in

two men before the killing and later saw his accuser under a streetlight, bloody and agitated. The jury believed Jones.

While in prison, Perkins obtained sworn statements from three people who said they had evidence that Jones was the actual killer. Their basic contention was that Jones had taken a bloody pair of orange pants to a dry cleaner the day after the killing. Though Perkins obtained the last statement in 2002, he did not ask a federal judge to throw out his conviction until 2008. The judge refused, saying that it had been filed too late, and that the statements were in any event "dubious."

The U.S. Court of Appeals for the 6th Circuit, in Cincinnati, reversed the judge's ruling, saying that Perkins' lack of diligence in presenting the new evidence did not matter. Ginsburg said that was not quite right. Diligence, she wrote, was a factor in assessing the reliability of the new evidence. □



The Supreme Court building in Washington, May 28, 2013. In a pair of 5-to-4 decisions that divided along ideological lines, the Supreme Court on Tuesday made it easier for inmates to challenge their convictions.

(Doug Mills/The New York Times)

The appeal was brought by Floyd Perkins, a Michigan man serving a life sentence for murder. He was convicted based largely

Flint. The third man, Rodney Henderson, was found dead on a wooded trail. Perkins testified that he had parted from the other

Hacker activist pleads guilty in U.S. to attacks

TOM HAYS

Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — A self-described anarchist and hacker activist in the U.S. pleaded guilty Tuesday to charges he illegally accessed computer systems of law enforcement agencies and government contractors.

Prosecutors had alleged that Jeremy Hammond took part in cyber-attacks carried out by Anonymous, the loosely organized worldwide hacking group that stole confidential information, defaced websites and temporarily put some victims out of business. Hammond was caught last year with the help of Hector Xavier Monsegur, a famous hacker known as Sabu who later helped law enforcement infiltrate Anonymous.

"As part of each of these hacks, I took and decimated confidential information stored on computer systems websites used by each of the entities," Jeremy Hammond told a judge in federal court in Manhattan. He faces a maximum sentence of more than 15 years at sentencing on Sept. 6.

Secrets-spilling group WikiLeaks published much of the material Hammond is accused of having stolen. WikiLeaks chief Julian Assange responded to the guilty plea Tuesday with a statement saying, "The Obama administration's treatment of Jeremy Hammond is a disgrace."

A criminal complaint had accused Hammond of pilfering information of more than 850,000 people via his attack on Texas-based Strategic Forecasting Inc., a publisher of geopolitical information also known as Stratfor. He also was accused of using the credit card numbers of Stratfor clients to make charges of at least \$700,000.

Hammond, 28, once rallied against plans to hold the 2016 Olympics in Chicago because he felt it would hurt low-income people; another time, he protested against neo-Nazi groups. □

Passengers describe calm after cruise fire

BEN NUCKOLS

Associated Press

LINTHICUM, Md. (AP) — Passengers whose cruise vacations were cut short by a fire onboard the *Grandeur of the Seas* arrived back home Tuesday on charter flights from the Bahamas, many praising the crew's response and some already planning their next sailings.

Rebecca Killinger of Carlisle, Pa., said she had no idea how extensive the fire was until she debarked in Freeport, Bahamas. Photos of the Royal Caribbean ship show a large area of the stern charred on several decks.

She credited the crew's calm, orderly response. "The crew was in total control, and there was no chaos," she said, and some cracked jokes to lighten the mood. Passengers described being awoken in their cabins as crew members knocked on doors and sent them to evacu-

ation stations with their life jackets shortly after the fire broke out at 2:50 a.m. Monday.

Robert Alexander of Hamilton, N.J., said crew mem-

"It just shows the training they do," Alexander said. "Our head waiter at our dinner table was one of the first responders."

Royal Caribbean says life



In this May 27, 2013 photo provided by passenger Marc Bell, passengers aboard the Royal Caribbean's *Grandeur of the Seas* cruise ship muster at sunrise after a fire broke out during the ship's voyage from Baltimore to the Bahamas. Royal Caribbean said the fire occurred early Monday and was extinguished after about two hours with no injuries reported.

(AP Photo/Marc Bell)

bers from all parts of the *Grandeur* were involved. An actor from the ship's theater made announcements as passengers left their rooms.

boats were not boarded and power was never lost. The fire was extinguished in about two hours, with no injuries reported among the 2,200 passengers or

the crew. The ship, which left Baltimore on Friday for a seven-night cruise, was headed originally to Coco Cay, Bahamas, but instead sailed to Freeport on Monday afternoon. It remained there Tuesday. The vice president of the Grand Bahama Shipyard said the ship would be repaired at his facility, though a full assessment of damage hadn't been done yet. "I'm assuming it will be a big job for us," Reuben Byrd said. Royal Caribbean spokeswoman Cynthia Martinez said late Tuesday that repairs would be carried out at the shipyard. The cause of the fire was not immediately known.

Byrd said the shipyard didn't know the cause either. National Transportation Safety Board spokesman Eric Weiss said the agency has sent one senior investigator to the Bahamas. No other details about the investigation were available. □

Obama, Christie reunite for Jersey shore tour



President Barack Obama, accompanied by New Jersey Gov. Chris Christie, stop to play the 'Touchdown Fever' arcade game on the boardwalk during their visit to Point Pleasant, N.J., Tuesday, May 28, 2013. Obama traveled to New Jersey to join Christie to inspect and tour the Jersey Shore's recovery efforts from Hurricane Sandy.

(AP Photo/Pablo Martinez Monsivais)

Continued from front

Later, at an outside event on the Asbury Park boardwalk, Obama and Christie urged Americans to flock to the repaired beaches of the state's coastline even as they acknowledged that for many homeowners, the devastation lingers. "We all understand there is still an awful lot of work to be done," Obama said. But in an exhortation sure to make it into the next New Jersey state promotional video, the president declared, "After all you've dealt with, after all you've been through, the Jersey Shore is back and it's open for business!" "America," Obama said, with campaign-style enthusiasm. "Bring your family and friends. Spend a little money on the Jersey Shore." On one level, the visit is nothing extraordinary: a president and a governor touting the success of their cooperation. Billions of state and federal dollars have aided the rebuilding of homes and businesses

along New Jersey's coast. By most accounts, the federal agencies and their state counterparts have worked well together. But the Obama-Christie bromance is about so much more than that. For the president, last year's post-hurricane images of the stroll with Christie were political gold. They demonstrated the president's willingness to be bipartisan at just the right moment. They made him look presidential. And Christie's effusive praise - he called the president's response "wonderful," "excellent" and "outstanding" - provided a last-minute boost. For Christie - a tough-as-nails Republican in a union-loving, Democratic state - being seen standing shoulder-to-shoulder with the Democratic president helped lift his approval ratings back into the stratosphere just before his re-election campaign this year. After their joint appearance last fall, both men took some heat from their

own parties. Some Republicans quietly bashed Christie for making life tougher on Mitt Romney, the president's Republican rival in the 2012 election. And Obama's praise of Christie has not helped Democrats in the state find a way to knock the governor off his pedestal. But the benefits of the political fellowship clearly outweigh the costs. The president does not face another election, but being seen as willing to work with Republicans could help him pass the rest of his agenda through a bitterly divided U.S. Congress. And beyond the immediate election in November, Christie may harbor hopes of running for president

in 2016. Standing next to the president again adds to the sense of gravitas that Christie will need if he hopes to land in the Oval Office someday. Christie clearly needs to walk a careful line. If he appears too chummy with the president, his Republican rivals could use it against him during the party's nomination fight. On the other hand, it could come in handy when it comes to winning over swing voters if he becomes the party's nominee. For the moment, the trick for both men is to appear as if they do not care about the politics. Christie has spent the last week speaking about the recovery along the coast. □

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Judge sets limits in Trayvon Martin case

KYLE HIGHTOWER
Associated Press

SANFORD, Florida (AP) — A judge ruled Tuesday to limit what attorneys can say in their opening statements in a trial over the fatal shooting of a black teen that raised questions across the U.S. about race and self-defense laws.

Attorneys won't be able to mention teen Trayvon Martin's drug use, suspension from school and past fighting in the opening of the trial of George Zimmerman. Zimmerman is charged with second-degree murder in

the 17-year-old's killing and has pleaded not guilty, saying he acted in self-defense after confronting Martin last year at a gated community in Florida. Circuit Judge Debra Nelson also rejected a defense request to delay the trial, set to begin June 10. Zimmerman's attorney, Mark O'Mara, told the judge that Martin's marijuana use and past fighting was central to the argument that Zimmerman used self-defense.

"We have a lot of evidence that marijuana use had something to do with

the event," O'Mara said. "It could have affected his behavior."

An attorney for Martin's family, Benjamin Crump, said the teen's parents were pleased with the judge's rulings.

"Trayvon Martin is not on trial," Crump said.

O'Mara, said Nelson's decisions would not affect how he presented his case, but he acknowledged, that the defense would "have a lot more work to do than we can get accomplished between now and June 10." □



Sybrina Fulton, the mother shooting victim Trayvon Martin, sits with with her attorney Benjamin Crump, during a pre-trial hearing for George Zimmerman, the accused shooter of Trayvon Martin, Tuesday, May 28, 2013 in Sanford, Fla. Zimmerman has been charged with second-degree murder for the 2012 shooting death of Trayvon Martin. He was not in court for the hearing.

(AP Photo/Joe Burbank, Pool)

US woman fights Mexico drug allegation

PHOENIX (AP) — A U.S. woman is jailed in Mexico on accusations that she tried to smuggle nearly 12 pounds (5.4 kilograms) of marijuana into the United States.

A court hearing was held Tuesday in the northern state of Sonora for 42-year-old Yanira Maldonado. Maldonado and her husband said they were returning from a funeral last

Wednesday when the bus they were on was stopped at a military checkpoint. Maldonado was arrested after soldiers reported finding the marijuana underneath her seat, according to a spokeswoman for the army in Sonora.

Gary Maldonado said his wife was framed and said authorities originally demanded \$5,000 for her release. Yanira Maldonado

was taken to a state prison after being turned over to federal prosecutors, said army spokeswoman Denisse Coronado. A federal judge will decide whether Maldonado should face trial, Coronado said.

The Mexican Embassy in Washington said in a statement that Yanira Maldonado's "rights to a defense counsel and due process are being observed."



Livestrong announced Tuesday that Nike is cutting ties with the charity in the latest fallout from the former cyclist's doping scandal.

(Handout Photo)

Nike cutting Livestrong ties

JIM VERTUNO
AP Sports Writer

AUSTIN, Texas (AP) — With Nike's help, Lance Armstrong's Livestrong cancer charity turned a little yellow wristband into a global symbol for cancer survivors. But Livestrong announced Tuesday the shoe and apparel company is cutting ties with the charity in the latest fallout from the former cyclist's doping scandal.

Nike said it will stop making its Livestrong line of apparel after the 2013 holiday season. Foundation and company officials said Nike will honor the financial terms of its contract until the deal expires in 2014.

The partnership with Nike generated more than \$100 million of the roughly \$500 million raised by Livestrong since it was founded in 1997. The partnership with Nike started in 2004.

"While 2013 will be tougher than past years, the Livestrong Foundation views it as a rebuilding year in which it charts a strong, independent course," the charity said in a statement. The charity insisted it remains on solid financial ground. "This news will prompt some to jump

to negative conclusions about the foundation's future. We see things quite differently," the foundation said.

The organization reduced its budget nearly 11 percent in 2013 to \$38.4 million, but it said Tuesday that revenue is already 2.5 percent ahead of projections.

Less than a year ago, the Nike-Livestrong-Armstrong connection was arguably one of the strongest in the field of sports marketing.

Armstrong was the feel-good story of the cancer survivor who returned to dominate a grueling sport. His success in the Tour de France — winning the race every year from 1999 to 2005 — helped turn the small charity he started into a growing force, and it moved to a new level when Nike started churning out the wristbands in 2004. Nike stood by Armstrong and Livestrong for years as the cyclist denied accusations of drug use. But the relationship soured last year when the U.S. Anti-Doping Agency released a massive report accusing Armstrong of leading a complex doping program on his U.S. Postal Service teams. □

U.S. Financial Front:

Economic gains launch US confidence to 5-year high

**C. S. RUGABER
M. CRUTSINGER
AP Economics Writers
WASHINGTON (AP)** —

Home prices are surging, job growth is strengthening and stocks are setting record highs. All of which explains why Americans are more hopeful about the economy than at any other point in five years. Investors on Tuesday celebrated the latest buoyant reports on consumer confidence and housing prices, which together suggest that growth could accelerate in the second half of 2013.

Greater confidence could spur people to spend more and help offset tax increases and federal spending cuts. And the fastest rise in home prices in seven years might lead more Americans to put houses on the market, easing supply shortages that have kept the housing recovery from taking off.

Tuesday's report from the Conference Board, a private research group, showed that consumer confidence jumped in May to a reading of 76.2, up from 69 in April. That's the highest level since February 2008, two months after the Great Recession officially began.

A separate report showed that U.S. home prices jumped nearly 11 percent in March compared with a year ago, the sharpest 12-month increase since April 2006. Prices rose year over year in all 20 cities in the Standard & Poor's/Case-Shiller home price index.

The economic news helped send the Dow Jones industrial average up 106 points to close at a record. The

Dow has rocketed nearly 18 percent this year. And the Standard & Poor's 500 stock index is on track for its seventh straight monthly gain, the longest winning streak since 2009.

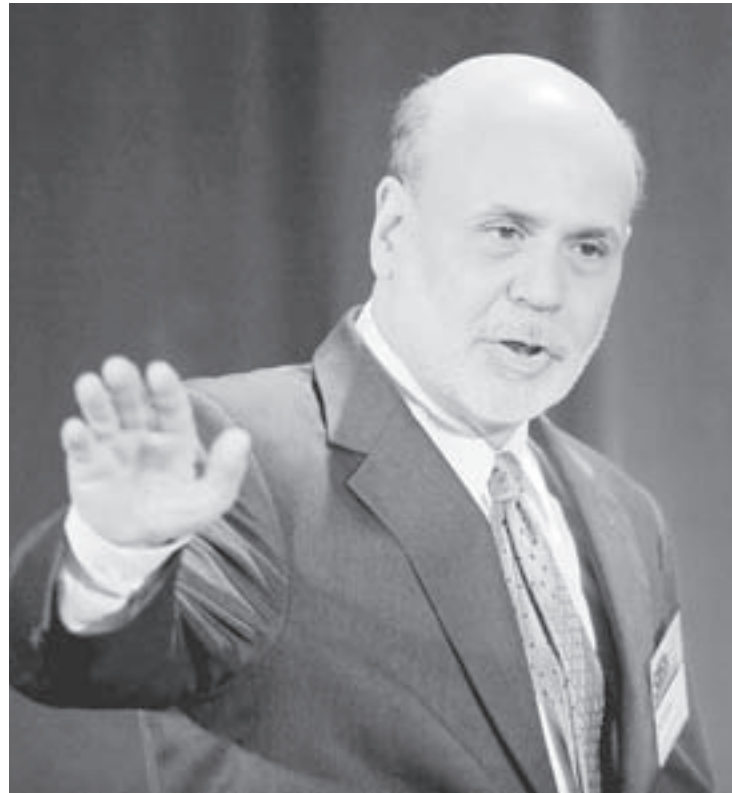
Surging stock prices and steady home-price increases have allowed Americans to regain the \$16 trillion in wealth they lost to the Great Recession. Higher wealth tends to embolden people to spend more. Some economists have said the increase in home prices alone could boost consumer spending enough to offset a Social Security tax increase that has reduced paychecks for most Americans this year.

The Conference Board survey said consumers are also more optimistic about the next six months. That should translate into greater consumer spending, substantial growth in hiring and faster economic growth in the second half of 2013, said Thomas Feltmate, an economist with TD Economics.

Michael Quintos, head of a Chicago advertising agency that helps small businesses market themselves through social media, sees more optimism at work and among friends and relatives.

"A year ago, I had more friends asking me if I knew anybody who was hiring," Quintos said. "Now I have more people who are hiring asking me if I know anyone looking for a job."

The Conference Board found that optimism is growing mostly among those earning more than the median household income of roughly \$50,000. For those households, the



Federal Reserve Chairman Ben Bernanke waves after speaking during a banking conference in Chicago. Tuesday's report from the Conference Board, a private research group, showed that consumer confidence jumped in May to the highest level since February 2008, two months after the Great Recession officially began.

(AP Photo/Paul Beaty)

confidence index jumped to 95.1 from 85.3.

Among most other income groups, confidence either rose more slowly or fell. For those earning \$15,000 to \$24,999, for example, the confidence index rose modestly, from 52.6 to 55.9. And for those earning \$25,000 to \$34,999, it slipped from 59.8 to 57.9.

Economists say the disparity points to the gain in stock prices, which mostly benefits more affluent Americans.

Consumers' outlook on the job market also improved last month. The percentage who said jobs are plentiful rose, and the percentage who said they're hard to find declined. Economists say the shift suggests that the pace of hiring could pick up.

The economy has added an average of 208,000 jobs a month since November. □

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VP Biden signs trade pact with Caribbean Community



Vice President Joe Biden, left, accompanied by Trinidad & Tobago's Prime Minister Kamla Persad-Bissessar, tries out a steelpan, the traditional percussion instrument of the Caribbean twin-island country, during their meeting at the Diplomatic Center in St. Anns, Trinidad, Tuesday, May 28, 2013.

(AP Photo/Anthony Harris)

TONY FRASER
Associated Press
PORT-OF-SPAIN, Trinidad (AP) — U.S. Vice President Joe Biden and political leaders from across the Caribbean met in the capital of resource-rich Trinidad & Tobago on Tuesday to sign a trade agreement and discuss a range of security, investment and energy issues.

After a more than three-hour session, Biden signed an agreement providing a framework for trade and investment between the U.S. and the Caribbean Community, a group of 15 nations and territories that include Trinidad, Jamaica and the Bahamas. At a news conference, Biden said he was aware that island nations face unique challenges and added that the U.S. administration's goal is "not simply growth, but it's growth that reaches everybody."

The leaders also discussed efforts to combat drug trafficking and other transnational crimes under a U.S. program launched in 2009 dubbed the Caribbean Basin Security Initiative. More than \$200 million in funding has been committed to it so far. Biden said Washington and the Caribbean region should be prepared to counter upticks in drug trafficking if smuggling routes swing back heavily to the islands. The Caribbean in the 1980s was the main smuggling route to the U.S. mainland, but the path shifted west to Mexico and Central America. "We know that as other nations in the hemisphere make strides against drug trafficking, the threat as I said may increasingly shift back toward the Caribbean," he said. Biden also disclosed that Washington and Trinidad recently signed a memorandum on launching a renewable energy research center in the country for the whole Caribbean region. "There's probably no group of nations better situated to take advantage of renewable energy possibilities than here in the Caribbean," he said.

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Biden also disclosed that Washington and Trinidad recently signed a memorandum on launching a renewable energy research center in the country for the whole Caribbean region.

"There's probably no group of nations better situated to take advantage of renewable energy possibilities than here in the Caribbean," he said.

Caribbean Community leaders raised the matter of criminals being sent by the U.S. back to their native lands in the region. The matter has been a major issue on the Caribbean's diplomatic agenda for years.

The U.S. has deported thousands of convicted criminals to the Caribbean annually since 1996, when Congress mandated that every non-citizen sen-

tenced to a year or more in prison be kicked out the U.S. upon release. As it stands now, home countries are told only why an offender is deported due to rules preventing the U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement agency from sharing more details without permission first from federal or state entities.

Haitian President Michel Martelly, chairman of the Caribbean Community, said regional leaders "repeated our plea for information sharing with respect to criminal deportees."

Officials also spoke to Biden about their concerns regarding generous U.S. subsidies to the rum industry in its Caribbean territories that regional distillers worry will drive some island labels out of business or force them to sell out to global beverage corporations.

Trinidad Prime Minister Kamla Persad-Bissessar said regional governments have been invited to view U.S. Navy vessels that are being decommissioned to see if the craft can be used to patrol the borders of the Caribbean Sea.

Trinidad's government also disclosed that it has ratified a "status of forces agreement" with Washington spelling out legal protections and obligations of U.S. forces during temporary stays. It says the agreement can't be the basis for any U.S. base in Trinidad and there are no provisions for other facilities used by American troops on the islands. □

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20 Tunisians convicted of attacking the US Embassy

TUNIS, Tunisia (AP) — The lawyer for the 20 Tunisians accused of attacking the U.S. Embassy in Tunis says they have been convicted and given two-year suspended sentences.

On Sept. 14, a mob of several thousand attacked the embassy in response to an American-made film considered insulting to Islam, and four demonstrators died.

Some 73 people were arrested, but most were released for lack of evidence and only 20 went on trial. They were convicted Tuesday night, says defense lawyer Anwar Oued-Ali. He says only nine of them are in custody.

After the attack, the government took a tougher stance with religious hardliners known as Salafis. □

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Despite EU arms vote, Syria diplomacy remains priority

**JAMEY
KARIN LAUB**
Associated Press

BEIRUT (AP) — Russia on Tuesday harshly criticized Europe's decision to allow the arming of Syrian rebels, saying it undercuts international efforts to negotiate an end to the civil war, and a rebel general said he's "very disappointed" weapons won't come fast enough to help opposition fighters defend a strategic Syrian town.

The European Union decision, coupled with a Russia's renewed pledge to supply Syrian President Bashar Assad's regime with advanced missiles, could transform an already brutal civil war into an East-West proxy fight. Israel, meanwhile, threatened to strike such air defense missiles systems if delivered to Syria, portraying them as a threat to the Jewish state and raising the risk of regional conflagration.

The possibility of an arms race in Syria overshadowed attempts by the U.S. and Russia to bring representatives of the Assad regime and Syria's political opposition to peace talks at an international conference in Geneva, possibly next month.

The talks, though seen as a long shot, constitute the international community's only plan for ending the conflict that began more than two years ago and has killed more than 70,000 people.

In Syria, the commander of the main Western-backed umbrella group of rebel brigades told The Associated Press he urgently needs Western anti-tank and anti-aircraft missiles to prevent further regime gains on the battlefield. The rebels' weapons are no match for the Syrian regime's mod-

ern tanks and warplanes, he said.

"We are very disappointed," Gen. Salim Idris, military chief of the Free Syrian Army, said of the European Union's apparent decision not to send weapons, if at all, until after the Geneva conference. "We don't have any patience (any) more."

In any case, Europe might think twice about sending such weapons into a chaotic war zone where they could quickly be seized by Islamic militant rebels, some of whom have pledged allegiance to the al-Qaida terror network.

Britain, which along with France had pushed for ending the EU arms embargo, wants to use the threat of arming the rebels as leverage to ensure that Assad negotiates in good faith.

Syria's fractured opposition, which has not yet committed to the Geneva talks, could also be lured to the table if attendance is linked to receiving weapons in the event that talks fail. Opposition leaders have said they will only participate in talks if Assad's departure from power tops the agenda, a demand Assad and his Russian backers have rejected.

British Foreign Secretary William Hague said peace talks are a priority and that "as we work for the Geneva conference, we are not taking any decision to send arms to anyone."

However, Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov warned that recent actions by the West "willingly or unwillingly are undermining the idea of the conference." He denounced the lifting of the EU arms embargo as an "illegitimate decision," saying

that supplying weapons to non-governmental groups "goes against all norms of international law."

At the same time, Lavrov's

deputy affirmed Tuesday that Russia won't abandon plans to send long-range S-300 air defense missile systems to Syria, despite



German Foreign Minister Guido Westerwelle, center, listens to Austrian Foreign Minister Michael Spindelegger, right, and other counterparts, during the EU foreign ministers meeting to discuss Syria, at the European Council building in Brussels.

(AP Photo/Yves Logghe)

strong Western and Israeli criticism. It is not clear if Russia has already sent some of the missiles, which would be a major boost for Syria's air defense capabilities, including against neighboring countries that oppose Assad's regime.

Russia's U.N. Ambassador Vitaly Churkin said that "to the extent those systems, if deployed in Syria, can deter foreign military intervention, I think it will help focus minds on a political settlement."

Churkin, speaking to CNN, said Assad has assured Russia that a government delegation will attend the peace conference that Russia and the U.S. have called. The most difficult problem, he said, "is organizing the opposition." □



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1 suspect in UK soldier slaying out of hospital



Police officers stand guard near some of the thousands of floral and other tributes left in honour of murdered 25-year-old soldier of the Royal Regiment of Fusiliers, Lee Rigby, at the scene near Woolwich Barracks in London, Tuesday, May 28, 2013.

(AP Photo/Kirsty Wigglesworth)

**C. VINOGRAD
TOM ODULA
Associated Press**

LONDON (AP) — One of two suspects shot by police following the slaying of a British soldier in London last week has been released from the hospital and taken to a police station for questioning, police said Tuesday. The release came as new details emerged about

links between the other main suspect and a radical Islamic cleric in Kenya who had been sanctioned by the United States for being part of a terrorist network. The case centers on the brazen killing of off-duty soldier Lee Rigby, 25, who was slain by two men wielding knives and meat cleavers near his barracks in south-east London's Woolwich area. The two suspects

were shot by police and arrested on suspicion of murder.

The younger suspect, 22-year-old Michael Adebowale, was judged well enough to be released from the hospital and taken into police custody. Police said he is also suspected of attempted murder of a police officer.

The other suspect, Michael Adebolajo, 28, remains in a hospital in stable condition under armed guard. He was seen on a video boasting about the killing minutes after the attack. His fam-

ily on Tuesday released a statement of condolence to Rigby's family, expressing horror and distress over the killing.

"Nothing we say can undo the events of last week," the statement read. "However, as a family, we wish to share with others our horror at the senseless killing of Lee Rigby and express our profound shame and distress that this has brought on our family."

Police have arrested a total 10 suspects — including those shot at the scene — in connection with last

Wednesday's killing.

In Kenya, police said they believed Adebolajo, a British citizen, had earlier associated with a radical Kenyan Muslim cleric who tried to help him join an al-Qaida-linked rebel group in neighboring Somalia. Muslim cleric Aboud Rogo Mohammed, who has since been killed, helped Adebolajo in his attempt to travel to Somalia to wage jihad, or holy war, against the country's United Nations-backed government, a senior Kenyan police official said Tuesday. □

Caracas:

Gunfire at strip club hurts 2 US officials

**C. TOOTHAKER
FABIOLA SANCHEZ
Associated Press**

CARACAS, Venezuela (AP) — Two officials from the U.S. Embassy suffered gunshot wounds early Tuesday in an altercation at a strip club in Venezuela's crime-ridden capital, police and U.S. State Department officials said. Their injuries were not considered life-threatening. The circumstances of the shooting were unclear, with conflicting reports over whether it happened inside or outside the Antonella 2012 nightclub.

Police said the two U.S. officials were shot following a brawl inside the club, which is in the basement of a shopping center in the upper-middle-class Chacao neighborhood.

The club's Twitter account features racy photos of nude or scantily clad women pole dancing, posing inside cages or reclining

on beds. The text under one photo invites visitors to come and watch the club's "sexy show."

"Apparently it was a fight originating in a nightspot where these people were attacked and shots were fired at them and they suffered gunshot wounds," police spokesman Douglas Rico told TV channel Globovision at the health clinic where the victims were taken. He said one was shot in the leg and abdomen and the other was shot in the abdomen. A police official identified one of the victims as military attache Roberto Ezequiel Rosas. She said he was shot in the right leg during an argument outside the night club in Chacao, which is east of the city center. The official, who spoke on condition of anonymity because she was not authorized to release the information publicly, said she had no infor-

mation on suspects.

In Washington, State Department spokesman William Ostick confirmed that "two members of the U.S. Embassy in Caracas were injured during an incident early this morning."

"Medical staff inform us that their injuries do not appear to be life-threatening," Ostick said. "Embassy security and health unit personnel are at the hospital and have been in touch with the two individuals and their families."

Patrick Ventrell, another State Department spokesman, told reporters that the incident happened in "some sort of social spot or somewhere outside of the embassy grounds."

"I am not sure if it was a restaurant, or a nightclub, or what the actual establishment was, but that is why we are in touch with embassy personnel," he said. □

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Pakistan polio vaccination suspended after killing



Blood-stained feet of a female polio worker who was killed by unknown gunmen, lies at a local hospital in Peshawar, Pakistan, Tuesday, May 28, 2013. Police say gunmen in Pakistan have shot dead a female polio worker and wounded another in the northwest, police said.

(AP Photo/Mohammad Sajjad)

**NAHAL TOOSI
RIAZ KHAN
Associated Press
PESHAWAR, Pakistan (AP)**

— Pakistani authorities suspended a four-day polio vaccination program Tuesday after gunmen shot dead a female polio worker and wounded another, officials said, in a blow to the U.N.-backed campaign aimed at eradicating the crippling disease from this violence-torn country. Such attacks have made it harder for Pakistan to join the vast majority of nations declared polio-free. The two women were attacked Tuesday in Kagga-wala village on the outskirts

of the main northwest city of Peshawar, police officer Mushtaq Khan said. Senior police official Shaf-ullah Khan said two attackers on foot fired a pistol at the workers. He said police have started a search operation. Government official Habibullah Arif said the polio vaccination drive in the northwestern city of Peshawar and nearby villages has been suspended. The four-day campaign was launched Tuesday morning, but it was halted "for security reasons and to express solidarity with the slain and injured female polio workers," he said.

No group has claimed responsibility for the latest killing, but some Pakistani militants have alleged in the past that the polio workers are U.S. spies and that the vaccine makes people sterile. Reinforcing those suspicions was the disclosure that the CIA used a Pakistani doctor to run a hepatitis vaccination campaign to try to get blood samples from al-Qaida founder Osama bin Laden's family before U.S. commandos killed him there in May 2011. The World Health Organization, the U.N. agency that oversees much of the polio vaccination work in Pakistan, condemned the at-

tack. Dr. Nima Saeed Abid, acting WHO country head for Pakistan, said the safety of his polio workers, many of whom are women, was paramount. "I hope the government will provide them with the requested security for the health workers," he said. "And after careful assessment, they should resume their activities." Pakistani President Asif Ali Zardari blasted what he called a "cowardly" attack, and resolved that "the government will not permit militants to deprive our children of basic health care." He spoke before the decision to suspend the program. Pakistan is one of only three

countries in the world, along with Afghanistan and Nigeria, where polio is still endemic. Health workers have made strides against the disease in recent years, but the violence threatens to reverse that progress. In December, gunmen killed nine polio workers in different parts of Pakistan. Several more workers have been killed since then, as well as police who were protecting them. The U.N. said in March that some 240,000 children had missed vaccinations since July in parts of Pakistan's tribal belt, the main sanctuary for Islamic militants, because of security concerns. □



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Chinese teen defaces Egypt temple; sparks outcry

GILLIAN WONG
Associated Press

BEIJING (AP) — A Chinese teenager who defaced an ancient temple in Egypt with graffiti has come under fire at home where his vandalism prompted public fretting about how to cultivate a good image overseas as more newly affluent Chinese travel abroad.

The teen scratched "Ding Jinhao visited here" in Chinese on a temple wall in the ancient city Luxor, and the incident came to light when another Chinese tourist posted a photo of it on a popular microblog with the comment: "My saddest moment in Egypt. Ashamed and unable to show my face."

The photo quickly caught the attention of the Chinese public, attracting thousands of comments, and someone was able to identify the person responsible for the graffiti as 15-year-old Ding Jinhao from the eastern city of Nanjing. Many criticized Ding's act as an embarrassment to the country.

"Why there are so many citizens who go abroad and humiliate us? How many generations will it take to change this kind of behavior?" Xuan Kejong, a prominent journalist with Shanghai Television, wrote on his microblog.

The sentiment was echoed

by the mouthpiece of the ruling Communist Party, the People's Daily newspaper. "Nowadays, people in China no longer want for food and clothing, and even in the luxury shops abroad,

are empty.' In the process of modernization, how have the people come to lack modern manners and consciousness?"

The outcry prompted Ding's parents to publicly

because we did not supervise him well, and have not taught him well."

The soul searching comes as Chinese tourism overseas has seen an explosion in growth over the past de-

est-growing source of international tourists in the world for the past 10 years, the World Tourism Organization, a U.N. agency, said in April. The organization said the volume of interna-



In this photo, the Chinese words "Ding Jinhao visited here" is seen on bas-relief in the 3,500-year-old Luxor temple in Luxor, Egypt. A Chinese teenager who defaced the ancient temple in Egypt with graffiti has come under fire at home where his vandalism prompted public fretting about how to cultivate a good image overseas as more newly affluent Chinese travel abroad.

(AP Photo)

there are advertisement posters in Chinese," the paper wrote in a commentary. "But many people also feel as though their 'hands are full but hearts

apologize. In an interview with a Nanjing newspaper, Ding's father said "the child has committed a mistake and the main responsibility falls on the adults. It was

cade, fueled by rising incomes and the relaxation of government restrictions on citizens' ability to travel abroad.

China has been the fast-

tional trips by Chinese tourists has grown from 10 million in 2000 to 83 million in 2012 — accompanied by a nearly eightfold increase in spending. □

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Ethiopia diverts Nile flow, Egypt says no impact yet

ADDIS ABABA, Ethiopia (AP) — Ethiopia started to divert the flow of the Blue Nile river to construct a giant dam on Tuesday, according to its state media, in a move that could impact the Nile-dependent Egypt.

The official Ethiopian Radio and Television Agency quoted Deputy Prime Minister Demeke Mekonnen as telling officials at a ceremony diverting flow at the dam construction site that the Great Ethiopian Renaissance Dam will provide hydroelectricity, not only for Ethiopia but also

for neighboring countries. Downstream nations Egypt and Sudan have objected to the construction, saying it violates a colonial-era agreement which gives Egypt nearly 70 percent of Nile River waters. Egypt says its population of 90 million is among the largest in Africa and that unlike other Nile Basin countries, it does not have readily available alternative water sources.

Ethiopia says the dam will not affect Egypt and that the 1959 agreement ignores the needs of five up-river countries. □



At Aqua Grill Restaurant:

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ing, the group chose Aqua Grill to enjoy seafood and steaks at the island's critically acclaimed restaurant.

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Scott can tailor a menu suited for a variety of tastes and budgets. The Topper group opted for a three-course dinner with choic-

es like the chef's famous Chesapeake crab cake, locally caught mahi mahi, Chilean sea bass, and several land lover options for

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the 2013 Travelers Choice Beaches Award, according to millions of TripAdvisor travelers. The project encompasses 124 whole-ownership units in three eight-story towers, all with 180° view of the Caribbean and just a few steps from the beach. On site amenities will include pools, snack-bar, mini market, landscaped sun-deck, fitness center, full service spa and concierge service.

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two, which will include 40 additional units.

All units are provided with porcelain tiles, Italian kitchens, stainless steel appliances, washer and dryer machines and an assigned parking space. Presales began in 2011 on only one tower, and, in a little over a year, 80% was sold, that's why the second tower was included as part of phase one. Now with 60% sold, the project has the structure of tower one completed, six of the eight-stories on tower two completed, 60% of the facade completed, and ready to start with installation of tiles and windows. The sales office is located inside the project and is open from Monday to Saturday, Sundays by appointment. Go see the amazing view from your future unit. □

ISA poised to build new Arts and Languages Complex

Wednesday, May 29 at 5:30 ISA will host a First Brick Placing Ceremony and Unveiling of the Master Plan for their new Arts and Languages Complex.

Prime Minister Eman, other dignitaries, representatives of the Aruban business community, supporters of the Arts, and ISA will join to celebrate a new venture. ISA seeks to support the local education system through sharing of professional resources, and to support Aruban business initiatives by providing a premier international school for all nationalities.

The new building will house World Language Arts (Spanish and English), a Conference Room, Visual Arts (Primary, Secondary and Ceramics), and Performing Arts (Dance and Drama).

ISA is committed to helping students develop Leadership, Character and Com-

munity. We see these new facilities, in combination with our new sports fields and courts,

as venues for developing programs that can host Arubans and allow ISA to become a center of positive community interactions.

We hope to develop programs for sports, arts, and languages, as well as professional networks focused on educational and local issues, in a facility that is open evenings and weekends. ISA for ALL!

The long-range Master Facilities Plan includes a Montessori program for two-year olds, a Boarding School wing, a new Library/Media Administration building, a Performing Arts Center and a new High School.

While it will be many years before the full campus is developed, we have visions of a premier school that supports three popu-



lations here in Aruba. First, ISA can support the international business community with a quality school accredited in both the US and Holland.

Second, ISA is committed to providing global options

for college and university by providing academic rigor and extra-curricular opportunities that empower students to go on to Harvard, MIT, Universiteit van Amsterdam, Technische Universiteit Delft and Uni-

versiteit Leiden. And third, enable anyone on Aruba to access programs in the Arts, Athletics and Literacy. For information about the school, please email info@isaruba.com or call 583-5040. □

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The Casino at the Radisson gears up for Father's Day Bingo

PALM BEACH – The Casino at the Radisson offers a great number of promotions to its slot and table players such as double points on slots from 12noon to 3pm every day, and Bonanza Free-Play Raffles, at 7, 8 & 9pm, for \$50 in free play vouchers, a numbers of times a week. The Friday Freeze-Out Poker Tournament is picking up in popularity as players buy in

for \$100+\$20 and receive \$10,000 in tournament chips.

The casino also plays Bingo twice a week with more than \$3,000 in prizes, every Saturday & Sunday, and the progressive jackpot is currently worth more than \$33,000, and is offered with every bingo played.

The grand Father's Day event, on Sunday, June 17, promises to be especially



entertaining with \$2,500 in prizes, snacks and live entertainment, at \$10 per bingo card.

Pictured here, lucky winner Suyen Werleman, who hit a Mystery Jackpot, without even having a

winning combination as she recently played the Lucky Luigi Pizzeria slot machine. □

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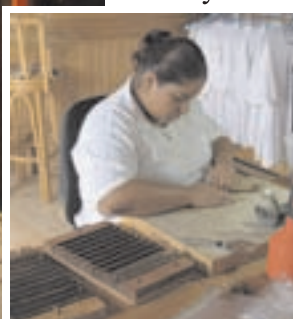


ORANJESTAD- Benjamin Petrocchi, a true native Aruban started the newest export product of Aruba, locally produced hand rolled cigars called "Aruhiba". These cigars are produced and cultivated in Aruba. Petrocchi always had a interest in the cigar business and has also sold Premium Cuban Cigars, and now he is growing his own tobacco crops. After many attempts and trips to Santo Domingo and Cuba, he started his own production and cultivation of Aruhiba Cigars in Aruba. The whole process took him 10 years to perfect. Petrocchi dedication to the cigars is important for the moulding and process of making a

perfect cigar which takes a long time. Their handmade cigar box is specially designed with their "Aruhiba" logo. Petrocchi considers Aruhiba as a promotion for Aruba through its fine cigars. The company sells Aruhiba to the international markets as well. Visit their retail store located in front of the Historic Dutch Windmill in front of the Westin Resort, with any purchase of \$20 and up you receive a free "Aruhiba" cigar or ask for their gift box of 5 cigars get 1 FREE for only \$37. They open from Monday to Saturday from 9 am till 6:30 pm and on Sundays from 9 am to 1 pm. Aruhiba cigars are now available at the gift stores in your resort

and at well-known cigar stores. For their complete selection and attractive by the box prices visit their retail store. Tours are also available at their Tobacco farm where their cigars are grown and rolled.

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SPORTS

Aruba TODAY



In this May 9, 2013 file photo, Adam Scott of Australia putts on the 15th green during the first round of The Players championship golf tournament at TPC Sawgrass in Ponte Vedra Beach, Fla. Associated Press

A contentious year in golf

DOUG FERGUSON
AP Golf Writer

DUBLIN, Ohio (AP) — Ernie Els flashed that easy smile when he saw a reporter walking toward the clubhouse at the TPC Sawgrass earlier this month.

"This must be great for you guys," he said through his laughter. "Come out to the PGA Tour and every week they hand you another story." And he wasn't talking about Adam Scott winning the Masters.

The debate over anchored strokes and long putters. Deer antler spray. Rule 33-7. A player cleared of an anti-doping violation on a technicality, and then suing his own tour. Players hiring an attorney over a new rule related to the long putter.

And this was before the public spat between Sergio Garcia and Tiger Woods took an ugly turn that brought overtures of racism back into golf.

"It's been quite a controversial year for golf," Lee Westwood said.

Continued on page 20



SPURS OF THE MOMENT

*San Antonio advance to Finals,
sweep Memphis 93-86*

Memphis Grizzlies guard Tony Allen (9) is fouled by San Antonio Spurs forward Tim Duncan (21) of U.S. Virgin Islands, during the first half in Game 4 of the Western Conference finals NBA basketball playoff series in Memphis, Tenn., Monday, May 27, 2013. Associated Press
Page 19

After waiting out rain, Djokovic starts French bid

HOWARD FENDRICH

AP Tennis Writer

PARIS (AP) — Novak Djokovic spent the better part of a rainy Tuesday at the French Open wondering when — and even whether — he would wind up playing his first-round match at the only Grand Slam tournament he's yet to win.

Unlike Wimbledon and the Australian Open, Roland Garros does not have a roof at any court.

Unlike the U.S. Open, though, at least there is a definitive timeline to build one.

Djokovic is thrilled about that forthcoming addition in Paris, even if it won't come until 2018. He also can't wait for them to install artificial lights at the French Open, which is supposed to happen sooner. Both of those improvements would have contributed to a more stress-free evening for the man ranked and seeded No. 1, who slipped and slid his way along the red clay to a 7-6 (5), 6-4,



Australia's Samantha Stosur, left, returns the ball to Japan's Kimiko Date-Krumm during their first round match, and Serbia's Novak Djokovic, right, returns against David Goffin of Belgium during their first round match of the French Open tennis tournament at the Roland Garros stadium, Tuesday, May 28, 2013 in Paris.



Associated Press

7-5 victory over David Goffin in the first round.

"It was a difficult day, because we have been waiting for hours and hours. I think I warmed up five or six times today," Djokovic said. "In these conditions ... you need to adjust your game and tactics, because it's quite different than comparing to the conditions when it's dry and sunny."

Even though his match against the 58th-ranked Goffin, a Belgian who was one of the revelations at Roland Garros a year ago, was the second to be played on Court Philippe Chatrier, they did not begin until after 6:30 p.m. They finished as light was fading shortly before 9 p.m. "It was a long day," Djokovic said.

At least he got to play.

Because of showers that began in the morning, there was a delay of more than 2½ hours at the start. Then, after only 1½ hours of action, arrived another stop of more than an hour. All told, only 26 of 40 scheduled singles matches were completed, three were suspended in progress, and organizers wound up postponing 11 others entirely. That means players such as Victoria Azarenka, the reigning Australian Open champion, will be slated for first-round action Wednesday, the fourth day of the tournament (when, by the way, the forecast calls for more rain).

That sets up a situation where Azarenka, for example, would need to win seven matches across 11 days to take home the trophy, while 2002 champion Serena Williams — who got to begin the tournament Sunday and is supposed to play in the second round Wednesday — would have her seven matches spread over 14 days if she goes the distance.

Among the winners Tuesday were 2010 French Open runner-up and 2011 U.S. Open champion Sam Stosur, who beat 42-year-old Kimiko Date-Krumm of Japan 6-0, 6-2.

"It was spitting a little bit when we went out there," Stosur said. "You think, 'Oh, are we going to start or are we not?' Lucky for me, I was able to finish the match before this last downpour came."

Another Australian, Bernard Tomic — whose father was barred from Roland Garros after being accused this month of head-butting Tomic's hitting partner — stopped because of a torn right hamstring while trailing Victor Hanesescu 7-5, 7-6 (8), 2-1. Three other men retired during matches: No. 28 Florian Mayer (right thigh), Alejandro Falla (stomach problems), Simone Bolelli (right wrist).

No. 9 Stanislas Wawrinka, No. 12 Tommy Haas and No. 16 Philipp Kohlschreiber and No. 26 Grigor Dimitrov advanced, along with 20-year-old American Jack Sock in his French Open debut.

If Dimitrov — he and Maria Sharapova are an item, so he was asked Tuesday about dealing with paparazzi — reaches the third round, he could face Djokovic. That would be an intriguing matchup, given that Dimitrov defeated Djokovic on clay at Madrid three weeks ago.

"This is the kind of matches I'd always want to play in," Dimitrov said. "I feel good on the big courts and playing against good players." Djokovic found Goffin in possession of that same attitude. In 2012, Goffin got into the French Open field as a "lucky loser" — someone who loses in qualifying but is put in the main draw because another player withdrew — and made it all the way to the fourth round. That's when Goffin got to face Roger Federer, his idol, and even took a set off the owner of the most career major titles before losing the match.

"He has a good chance to have a good future," Djokovic said. "He likes playing here, obviously. He likes playing on a big stage."

Perhaps. But Tuesday's key moment came in the first-set tiebreaker, with Goffin serving at 5-all. After he faulted once, a fan yelled, "Allez, David!" The 22-year-old Goffin then proceeded to miss his second serve, too, for a double-fault that gave Djokovic a set point. □

After Giro win, Nibali aims for Vuelta and worlds

MILAN (AP) — Vincenzo Nibali wants to follow up his Giro d'Italia title by attempting to win the Spanish Vuelta and the world championship road race in September. Nibali tells Giro organizers that "the Vuelta is a goal, just like the worlds in Florence." Nibali won the Giro on Sunday with a dominating performance, having taken his first Grand Tour title at the 2010 Vuelta. Only three riders have won the Giro and Vuelta in the same year — Eddy Merckx in 1973, Giovanni Battaglin in 1981 and Alberto Contador in 2008. None of them also won the world title in those years.

The Vuelta runs Aug. 24-Sept. 15 and the worlds race is Sept. 29.

Nibali is not planning to ride this year's Tour de France, having finished third last year. □



Italy's Vincenzo Nibali holds the trophy after winning the Giro d'Italia, Tour of Italy cycling race, in Brescia, Sunday, May 26, 2013.

Associated Press



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NBA Playoffs Roundup

Spurs complete sweep of Grizzlies, win 93-86

MEMPHIS, Tennessee (AP)

— Written off by many as too old to contend anymore, the San Antonio Spurs booked a place in the NBA finals by completing a sweep of the Memphis Grizzlies on Monday.

Tony Parker scored 37 points in his best game this postseason as San Antonio beat the Grizzlies 93-86 to complete a 4-0 win in the Western Conference series and reach the finals for the first time in six years.

"It's a great feeling," Parker said as he sat with the Western Conference trophy perched in front of him.

"Since last year, I promised Tim (Duncan) we would go back to the finals and get an opportunity to win the whole thing. Everybody on the team, we really want to do it for him. We win the West and now one more step. It's the hardest one."

The Spurs now have won six straight in these playoffs, handing two straight losses to a team that had been undefeated on their own court in their best postseason in franchise history.

Parker hit 15 of 21 and all six at the free throw line earning the Spurs and Duncan plenty of rest before Game 1 of the Finals on June 6.

"He's been amazing," Duncan said of Parker. "Every year he gets better and better and better. He's been carrying us. You can see tonight he carried us the entire game."

Duncan hugged Manu Ginobili before heading off the court, celebrating the chance at a title that slipped away a year ago when the Spurs blew a 2-0 lead to Oklahoma City by losing four straight.

The 37-year-old Duncan finished with 15 points and

eight rebounds. Kawhi Leonard added 11.

"We want to get back there," Duncan said of making the finals. "We've had some really close years where we fell right on the verge of getting back. It feels like forever since we've been there."

Spurs coach Gregg Popovich said making the finals was a testament to the longevity of the team's core: Duncan, Parker and Ginobili.

"You don't expect that to happen maybe this late in the game with the same group," Popovich said. "It's tough to maintain something that long. It just shows the character of those three guys and the ability to play with whoever else is brought in around them. They deserve a lot of credit for that."

The Spurs shot 51.3 percent (39 of 76) from the floor and outscored Memphis 52-32 in the paint, even though the Grizzlies had a 41-34 edge on the boards. Memphis led only briefly as the Spurs took control early.

Memphis stayed close only by getting to the free throw line, making more shots there (17 of 24) than San Antonio took (12 of 13). The Grizzlies also got a career-high 22 points from reserve Quincy Pondexter, 18 of those in the second half. Pondexter was the only player from Memphis to shoot over .500. Zach Randolph finished with 13, continuing his struggles at the line where he was 5 of 8, and Marc Gasol had 14.

"We learned that winning isn't easy and winning championships is one of the hardest things you can possibly do," Pondexter said. "Our guys really dug deep to get as far as we



San Antonio Spurs guard Tony Parker (9) looks to pass as Memphis Grizzlies center Marc Gasol (33) defends, during Game 4 of the Western Conference finals NBA basketball playoff series in Memphis, Tenn., Monday, May 27, 2013. The Spurs defeated the Grizzlies 93-86 to advance to the NBA finals.

Associated Press

did, and San Antonio's a tremendous team. We're going to take a couple pages out of their book."

Duncan had taken care of the Grizzlies in overtime in each of the previous two games but it was Parker

who took over this time. He hit 14 of his first 18 shots, and the biggest with 9:15 left when he knocked down his lone 3-pointer to stifle a Memphis rally that had seen the hosts get within three points.

The Grizzlies made one last run and got within three one last time when Gasol scored on a runner in the lane with 48.7 seconds left. But Parker hit four free throws in the final 29.7 seconds to seal the victory. □

NHL Playoffs Roundup

Blackhawks beat Red Wings 4-3, force a Game 7

DETROIT (AP) — The Chicago Blackhawks crammed on three goals in the first half of the final period to beat the Detroit Red Wings 4-3 on Monday, squaring the NHL Western Conference finals at 3-3 and forcing a deciding Game 7.

The Blackhawks, who trailed the second round series 3-1, began the third period down by one but went up by two after an offensive flurry.

They needed the cushion because Damien Brunner scored with 52 seconds left to pull Detroit within one.

The Red Wings pulled their goaltender, but they were unable to score with the extra skater.

Still, Detroit coach Mike Babcock was emphasizing the positive as they head into the decider on Wednesday.

"If I would've told Detroit and Michigan we would play in Chicago in Game 7, everybody would be



Chicago Blackhawks center Michael Frolik (67), of the Czech Republic, scores a penalty shot goal against the Detroit Red Wings goalie Jimmy Howard (35) during the third period in Game 6 of the Western Conference semifinals in the NHL hockey Stanley Cup playoffs in Detroit, Monday, May 27, 2013.

Associated Press

excited about that," Babcock said. "I love Game 7s. "We've got a chance to push them out of the playoffs. It should be a lot of fun."

Chicago opened the scor-

ing when Marian Hossa got his stick to the puck in a goalmouth scramble less than four minutes in.

Patrick Eaves tied the game with his first goal of the postseason later in the

period and Joakim Andersson put the Red Wings up 2-1 with a long wrister 10:11 into the second period.

Chicago goalie Corey Crawford blamed himself

for letting in the fluttering shot, leaving the top-seeded Blackhawks staring at elimination.

"I pretty much told myself it can't get any worse," Crawford said.

In fact it soon got better, as the Blackhawks turned it around rapidly in the third, silencing the raucous home crowd.

Michael Handzus was unmarked when he scored 51 seconds into the third against a helpless Jimmy Howard, tying the game.

Bryan Bickell wouldn't let Detroit defenseman Brendan Smith move him away from Howard before he scored to make it 3-2. Howard took Smith's stick and threw it into the corner.

Michael Frolik's backhand shot at the 9:43 mark put the Blackhawks ahead 4-2 and became the first player to score two goals from penalty shots in the playoffs. □

Golf

Continued from Page 17

Woods already has won four times on the PGA Tour going into the Memorial, a tournament he already has won five times in his career. So when someone asked Westwood on Tuesday if there was a sense that the No. 1 player was on the verge of going on a big run, Westwood looked mildly perplexed.

"I think he's on one, isn't he?" Westwood said. "How many tournaments has he played this year? He's won more than 50 percent."

But any talk of Woods is sure to include the illegal drop he took at the Masters, the two-shot penalty he received the next day, the incorrect scorecard with his signature on it and Augusta National invoking Rule 33-7, which gave it discretion to disregard the penalty of disqualification for the incorrect scorecard.

That debate lost steam when Vijay Singh sued the tour the day before The Players Championship began at TPC Sawgrass, where the Fijian spent years honing a game that brought him nearly \$70 million in earnings and a spot in the World Golf Hall of Fame. Lawsuits against the tour are rare, but the details of this one were bizarre.

"Nobody has ever sued the tour for being cleared of getting a drug violation," Pádraig Harrington said.

WADA warned against deer antler spray. Vijay Singh used deer antler spray. The tour proposed a six-month suspension. Singh appealed. WADA said deer antler spray was no longer the same concern. Singh was off the hook. And then Singh sued the tour.

The good news for PGA Tour commissioner Tim Finchem was the lawsuit was largely forgotten three days later. The bad news for the tour was why it was



Spain's Sergio Garcia during round four on day four of the BMW PGA Championship at the Wentworth Club, Surrey, England, Sunday May 26, 2013

Associated Press

forgotten.

Singh vs. PGA Tour felt like an undercard compared with Garcia vs. Woods.

The Spaniard opened a slanging match during a rain delay by suggesting Woods was the cause of a commotion in their final group of the third round. Woods fired back by calling out Garcia for his constant complaining, which led Garcia to say Woods wasn't the nicest guy on

tour. And with no interest by either side in a truce, Garcia tried to make a joke about having Woods over for fried chicken, and he wound up with egg on his face.

Garcia threw out the racial stereotype the same day that the Royal & Ancient Golf Club and U.S. Golf Association introduced Rule 14-1b, effective in 2016, that would ban the anchored stroke used for

long putters — like the one Scott used when he won the Masters, or the one Els used at the British Open, and Webb Simpson in the U.S. Open, and the ones used by Tim Clark and Carl Pettersson their entire pro careers.

At least three players, including Scott, have retained a lawyer as they wait to see whether the PGA Tour goes along with the new rule. The tour met with its Player Advisory Council on Tuesday at Muirfield Village, the first step toward figuring out which direction it will go.

According to one PAC member at the meeting, there was passion on both sides of the debate, which was not surprising. And there was no consensus, also not surprising. This was only a conversation, and from all indications, no one called anyone names.

So much for golf's reputation as a genteel sport.

"Is it bad for golf?" Nick Watney said Tuesday afternoon. □

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Interleague Capsules

Murphy comes through in 8th, Mets edge Yankees

The Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — Daniel Murphy hit a go-ahead single in the eighth after being denied a homer two innings earlier, and the New York Mets rallied to beat the rival Yankees 2-1 Monday night for their second straight home win after losing eight in a row.

David Wright hit his first home run at Citi Field this year to tie it in the seventh. Murphy came through against David Robertson (3-1) to hand the Yankees their first loss in 23 games when leading after six innings.

Murphy's drive to left-center in the sixth was caught above the wall by Brett Gardner to end the inning. The Yankees also threw out a runner at home plate in the eighth just before Murphy singled to center field. Brandon Lyon (2-2) pitched a scoreless eighth in relief of an impressive Jonathon Niese. Bobby Parnell worked the ninth for his eighth save.

DODGERS 8, ANGELS 7

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Jerry Hairston Jr. singled in the go-ahead run in the seventh inning and Adrian Gonzalez went 4 for 4 and scored four runs for the Dodgers in the Freeway Series opener.

The Angels' season-high eight-game winning streak ended after they blew a five-run lead in the first of two games at Dodger Stadium before the series shifts to Anaheim for two more. Hairston was reinstated from the 15-day disabled list earlier in the day. He was 0 for 2 with a strikeout before he singled off Robert Coello (1-1) with two outs. After Matt Kemp struck out for the third time, Gonzalez singled and Scott

Van Slyke struck out before pinch hitter Andre Ethier walked to set up Hairston. Ronald Belisario (3-4) got the victory and Brandon League pitched the ninth for his 11th save.

CUBS 7, WHITE SOX 0

CHICAGO (AP) — Jeff Samardzija threw a two-hitter and Julio Borbon hit a two-run home run to help the Cubs get the victory.

Samardzija (3-6) pitched the Cubs' first shutout since Randy Wells on Aug. 29, 2011, against the Giants. The last time Cubs shut out an opponent as a team came against the Rockies on Aug. 26, 2012.

The first White Sox hit came from Conor Gillaspie in the third inning. Samardzija then got Jeff Keppinger to hit into a double play as he faced the minimum through four innings.

He struck out Alejandro De Aza to end the sixth. He then retired 12 straight before giving up a walk to Tyler Flowers in the ninth inning.

White Sox starter Jose Quintana (3-2) allowed four runs and four hits in six innings.

TIGERS 6, PIRATES 5

DETROIT (AP) — Justin Verlander struck out 13 in seven innings and Jhonny Peralta had four hits to lead Detroit to its sixth win in seven games.

It was Peralta's first four-hit game since June 4, 2010, when he was playing for Cleveland.

Verlander (6-4) hadn't pitched more than five innings in any of his previous three starts, struggling at times with his location. But he was sharp for the most part against Pittsburgh, allowing three runs and seven hits with two walks.

Joaquin Benoit allowed two runs — one earned

— in the eighth. Jose Valverde finished for his sixth save in seven chances, striking out a swinging Andrew McCutchen with a runner on first to end it.

Pittsburgh left-hander Francisco Liriano (3-1) allowed four runs and eight hits in five innings.

RED SOX 9, PHILLIES 3

BOSTON (AP) — Dustin Pedroia and Mike Napoli homered in the first inning as Boston jumped to an early lead and coasted to the victory.

Substitute starter Alfredo Aceves (2-1) had his best outing of the year, holding the Phillies to one run over six innings. Jacoby Ellsbury had hits in each of the first three innings to help the Red Sox earn their fourth consecutive victory and their 10th in their last 13 games.

Tyler Cloyd (1-1) allowed three runs in the first inning and was charged with three more in the third. He lasted just 2 1-3 innings, giving up nine hits and a walk while striking out two.

Jimmy Rollins, Ryan Howard, John Mayberry and Ben Revere each had two hits for the Phillies.

ATHLETICS 4, GIANTS 1

OAKLAND, Calif. (AP) — Josh Donaldson hit a two-run homer to back Dan Straily's strong start, and the Athletics won the Bay Bridge Series opener.

Straily (3-2) tossed six innings of one-run ball, allowing four hits and one walk. Buster Posey's groundout in the sixth inning drove in San Francisco's lone run.

Donaldson connected against Madison Bumgarner (4-3) in the fourth, and Yoenis Cespedes added a two-run double against George Kontos in the seventh to extend Oakland's



New York Yankees center fielder Brett Gardner (11) catches Daniel Murphy's sixth-inning flyout at the outfield wall for the third out in an interleague baseball game at Citi Field in New York, Monday, May 27, 2013. One runner was on base at the time.

Associated Press

lead.

Sean Doolittle pitched two perfect innings and Grant Balfour recorded his 11th save of the season for Oakland, which has won four straight and nine of 10.

ORIOLES 6, NATIONALS 2

WASHINGTON (AP) — Jason Hammel pitched eight sharp innings in his longest start of the season, leading the Orioles to the win.

Nick Markakis and Yamaico Navarro each drove in two runs and the Orioles had 15 hits, including three from Manny Machado.

Hammel (7-2) improved to 4-0 at Nationals Park. He allowed eight hits and two runs, struck out eight and walked none.

Nationals starter Gio Gonzalez (3-3) was charged with four runs and eight

hits in 5 2-3 innings. The left-hander had no record and a sparkling 1.29 ERA over his previous three outings. Washington played without Bryce Harper, who has swelling in his left knee.

REDS 4, INDIANS 2

CINCINNATI (AP) — Joey Votto hit a tiebreaking two-run homer in the eighth inning to lift Cincinnati to the victory. Votto drove a 2-1 pitch from Nick Hagadone (0-1) over the wall in left for his ninth homer. Hagadone was called up from Triple-A earlier in the day when closer Chris Perez was put on the disabled list with a sore right shoulder.

Shin-Soo Choo also had a leadoff homer in the first for the Reds. Choo was traded from the Indians to the Reds in the offseason. □

Eating Your Pots and Pans

By: Dr Carlos Viana

Certain metals are essential for human health like iron, zinc, copper, manganese, chromium, molybdenum, selenium, calcium and sodium. Of course, we need these only in trace, or very small amounts. These metals are found naturally in the earth where plants and animals absorb them and then pass them to us as food.

Other metals known as heavy or toxic metals are elements that cannot be metabolized by the body and include: mercury, nickel, lead, arsenic, cadmium, aluminum, platinum, and copper (the metallic form found in copper pipes, versus the ionic form required by the body). Exposure to heavy metals has been linked with developmental retardation, various cancers, kidney damage, and even death in cases of very high of exposure.

The fact is that we are all being exposed to and absorbing harmful substances to some degree every day. Aluminum powder is found in kitchen pots, toothpaste and underarm deodorant and processed foods. Mercury from amalgam (silver) fillings breaks down and leaks a toxic gas into our brains. And, these are just a few examples. We may not be able to control all the toxic metals we are exposed to, but we can control some.

Most people are shocked to find out that metal and chemicals from your kitchen pots and pans can leach into your food, espe-

cially under high cooking temperatures. Even a small amount of metal or chemical can affect the taste of your food, not to mention, your health. Want a check for yourself? Put a half a glass of clean water into one of your pots and scrub the bottom with a brand new plastic scouring pad. Scrub for thirty seconds, and then pour the water into the glass. What do you see? Would you drink that water? If the water is cloudy or if the water tastes metallic, you should consider changing your cookware.

Acidic and alkaline foods will increase the leaching of metals from your pots into your food. Generally, vinegar and fruits are the most acidic foods and include lemon juice, apples, blueberries, cherries, grapes, grapefruit, peaches, pears, pineapple, plums, and raspberries. The more acidic vegetables include: pimientos, tomatoes, or anything processed with vinegar or acid liquid, such as artichokes or beets from a jar or can.

Alkaline or basic foods include eggs, garlic, onion, potatoes, avocados, bananas, spinach, broccoli, carrots, peas, and my favorite, unsweetened chocolate. The body has a much higher tolerance for acid foods than basic foods. That is because acidic foods tend to push the body to a, healthier more alkaline position. Inexpensive and excellent at transferring heat quick-

ly to food, aluminum has been used for kitchenware for a long time. Aluminum is fairly soft and will release more molecules into the food than harder metals used in other cookware. Alkaline foods will increase the amount of aluminum that leaches into the food. Aluminum cookware is definitely linked to an increasing chance of early onset Alzheimer's disease. Medical research has shown that approximately 20% of the daily intake of aluminum has been proven to come from cooking utensils (pans, pots, kettles, and trays) made of aluminum. In 1961, "The Happy Pan", the first US-made Teflon coated frying pan was introduced and became popular because Teflon is used as a non-stick coating. However, while Teflon is stable and nontoxic, it begins to deteriorate after the temperature of cookware reaches about 260 °C; 500 °F, and decomposes above 350 °C; 662 °F. Meat is usually fried between 400 and 450 °F (204 and 232 °C), and most oils will start to smoke, meaning they are turning rancid before a temperature of 500 °F, 260 °C is reached. Empty cookware can easily exceed this temperature upon heating. Overheating of Teflon generates highly toxic fumes and poses a serious health hazard to the human respiratory tract. Heated to its smoking point Teflon fumes are ten times as toxic as phosgene gas, a chemical weapon used



in both World Wars.

In May, 2003, the environmental research and advocacy organization, Environmental Working Group, filed a brief with the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission petitioning for a rule requiring that cookware and heated appliances bearing non-stick coatings carry a label warning of health hazards to people and to birds.

Cast iron cookware can leach dietary iron into food which is actually a good thing. People with anemia may benefit from the added iron in the food. However, Cast iron is very heavy, rusts if not handled correctly and not practical for all types of cooking.

Stainless steel is the better choice for cookware, but even good stainless, after it has been used and scoured with steel wool

pad, or dinged and pitted through years of use, leaches some metals into your food. Stainless steel is actually a mixture of several metals, including chromium, molybdenum and nickel, all of which can trickle into foods. Chromium and molybdenum are needed by the body in very small amounts, but nickel, is a toxic metal known as a carcinogen or cancer causing.

We test patients for toxins contributing to health problems using hair. Hair growing out of the body brings its message of what the environment was like inside. Diagnosing a hair element test result, I can usually tell you what kind of pots and pans you are using in your kitchen. Nickel and aluminum are heavy metals we see often in hair toxicity test results. □

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Cuba to offer public Internet at salons islandwide

ANDREA RODRIGUEZ

Associated Press

HAVANA (AP) — Cuban authorities said Tuesday that they will begin offering public Internet access at more than 100 cyber-salons across the island, though home Web service remains greatly restricted. Starting June 4, people can sign up with state telecom Etecsa for temporary or permanent accounts to use one of the 118 centers, according to a measure enacted with its publication in the government's Official Gazette.

"New areas for (Internet) navigation will gradually be incorporated," official newspaper Juventud Rebelde reported.

Until now, the Internet has been limited to places such as tourist hotels that charge \$8 an hour for creaky Wi-Fi, foreign-run companies and some sectors of Cuban business and government. Residential dial-up accounts are rare and restricted.

According to government statistics, only 2.9 percent of Cubans said they had access to the Worldwide Web — though outside observers put the likely figure at 5 to 10 percent, taking underreporting into account.

About 16 percent were able to go partway online via a domestic Intranet and email, often through



People reflected in the window line up at a post office as they wait to use the Internet service in Havana, Cuba, Tuesday, May 28, 2013. Cuba announced Tuesday that it will offer more access to the Internet starting June 4, at navigation sites around the country for \$4.50 an hour. The average salary in Cuba is \$15 per month.

workplace or school hook-ups or places such as computer clubs and post offices.

"Great! I knew this was coming," said Camila Delgado, a 44-year-old shop worker in Havana, though she added that "there's still a ways to go to be like everywhere else on the planet. We don't have access at home and the prices are prohibitive."

Indeed, some scoffed at the new cyber-centers'

price tag of \$4.50 an hour, a stiff fee for islanders whose state salaries average about \$20 per month plus an array of subsidized goods and services.

"It's a real bargain," snarked a user on state news website Cuba Si who gave the name Osvaldo Ulloa. "I mean, I work for a week and then I can get online for hour — fabulous." Even for those who are already able to access the wider Internet, some sites

are censored for things including pornography or politically objectionable content. It was not clear whether the new service will block such pages, and neither the Gazette nor Juventud Rebelde mentioned the issue.

The Internet is a highly politicized issue on the island, with critics pointing to restrictions as an example of infringement upon freedom.

Authorities say that the

limitations are due more to technical reasons and that Cuba has the obligation to prioritize its limited capacity for things that benefit the public good, such as research and work centers or universities.

Earlier this year, Cuba began sending and receiving data traffic through a fiber-optic cable strung from Venezuela in 2011 that provided the island's first hard-wired Internet connection to the outside world. □

Associated Press

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Stocks jump after home prices, confidence surge

STEVE ROTHWELL
AP Markets Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — A rally that brought the stock market to record highs this year came back to life after U.S. home prices rose the most in seven years and consumer confidence reached a five-year high. As stock prices rose investors sold bonds, sending interest rates higher. The Dow Jones industrial average rose 106 points to close at another record Tuesday, bouncing back from a loss the week before. The Standard & Poor's 500 index also gained. The S&P is on track for its seventh straight monthly gain, the longest winning streak since 2009.

"They say the stock market tends to lead the economy. Now we're starting to see the improvement on the economic front, so there's some justification for this rally," said Ryan Detrick, a senior technical strategist at Schaeffer's investment research. The yield on the 10-year Treasury note jumped to 2.17 percent, its highest level since April 2012, as investors moved money out of safe assets and into riskier ones like stocks. That's a big jump from Friday's level of 2.01 percent. Markets were closed Monday for Memorial Day.

The Dow closed 106.29 points, or 0.7 percent, higher at 15,409.39. The index has risen for 20 straight Tuesdays. The longest streak of consecutive gains for any day of the week was sent in 1968, when there were 24 gains on Wednesdays, according to Schaeffer's Investment Research. The S&P 500 index rose 10.46 points, or 0.6 percent, to 1,660.06. The Nasdaq composite index climbed 29.74 points, or 0.9 percent, to 3,488.89.

The stock market is coming off a rare loss last week, when both the Dow and the S&P 500 index had their first losing weeks in a month. Investors worried that the Federal Reserve might slow its extraordinary economic stimulus measures, which have also supported the stock market's

advance.

Part of the reason for the increase in bond yields is anticipation that the Fed may ease back on its \$85 billion a month in bond purchases. Tim Courtney, chief investment officer at Exencial Wealth Advisors,



Trader Gregory Rowe on the floor of the New York Stock Exchange Tuesday, May 28, 2013. Americans are more confident in the U.S. economy than at any point in the past five years, thanks to surging home values, a brighter job market and record-setting stock prices. (AP Photo/Richard Drew)

is among those who see a bleak outlook for the bond market. Rising inflation will eventually lead to higher interest rates, Courtney said, and losses for bond investors.

"The only way that bonds can make money from here is if we go a prolonged period of time with very, very low inflation and rates just don't move up a whole lot at all," said Courtney. "Under any other scenario they lose."

The Standard & Poor's/Case-Shiller survey, which was released before stock trading opened, found that U.S. home prices rose 10.9 percent in March, the most since April 2006. A growing number of buyers are bidding on a tight

supply of homes. Beazer Homes jumped 63 cents, or 3 percent, to \$21.96.

Stocks extended their gains in the morning after the Conference Board reported at 10 a.m. that its measure of consumer confidence rose in May to its highest level since February 2008.

The Dow was up as much as 218 in the early going, then gave up some of its gain in the afternoon.

Some analysts judged that

investors were booking gains with the end of the month approaching on Friday. The Dow is up 3.8 percent so far in May. The S&P 500 is 3.9 percent higher.

"It's the end of the month," said Quincy Krosby, a market strategist at Prudential Financial. "If you've been long and you'd done very well you want to lock in those gains."

The gains were broad. Eight of the 10 industry groups in the S&P 500 index rose, led by financial stocks. The only ones that fell were utilities and telecommunication stocks, which investors tend to buy when they're seeking stable, safe stocks that pay high dividends. All but six of the 30 stocks in the Dow rose.

The Dow has advanced 17.6 percent this year and the S&P 500 index is 16.4 percent higher as investors have piled into stocks.

Unlike the first three months of the year, when the biggest gains were in large, stable companies like consumer staple makers that pay big dividends, in recent weeks investors have been bidding up the stocks of companies that have more to gain if the economy strengthens. That shift out of lower-risk stocks and into more "cyclical" stocks, like banks and industrial com-

panies, means investors are becoming more aggressive in seeking returns and more comfortable taking on risk.

Another bullish signal for the market is the strong growth in small-company stocks. Those stocks have a greater potential for appreciation but also tend to carry greater risk than large, diversified companies. The preference for small stocks was on display again Tuesday as the Russell 2000 index of small-company stocks rose 1.3 percent, more than other market indexes, to 997 points, a gain of 13 points. Its year-to-date increase of 17.4 percent is 1 percentage point greater than that of the S&P 500.

Among other stocks making big moves:

—Tiffany rose \$3.01, or 3.9 percent, to \$79.22 after the high-end jewelry seller said its first quarter net income rose 3 percent as sales improved across all regions. The results beat the forecasts of Wall Street analysts.

—Tesla Motors jumped \$13.25, or 13.7 percent, to \$110.33. Last week the electric car maker raised almost \$1 billion from a bond and stock offering and paid off a government loan nine years early. □

Moody's: Outlook for US banks raised to 'Stable'

NEW YORK (AP) — Moody's Investors Service has raised its outlook for the U.S. banking industry for the first time in five years, citing the improving economy and banks' stronger balance sheets.

The rating agency said in a report issued Tuesday that sustained economic growth and a better jobs picture will help banks over the next 12 to 18 months. Moody's raised its outlook for the industry to "Stable" from "Negative." It had been "Negative" since 2008, the year the financial crisis struck.

Moody's said that after a year of reducing losses from soured loans and building cushions against losses, banks are in a better position to handle any fu-



A woman passes a Bank of America office branch, in New York. Moody's Investors Service has raised its outlook for the U.S. banking industry for the first time in five years, citing the improving economy and banks' stronger balance sheets. (AP Photo/Mark Lennihan)

ture economic downturn. It said the most likely sce-

nario pushing the outlook back to negative would

be a slackening of banks' credit standards. □

Fidelity National Financial buying Lender Processing

JACKSONVILLE, Florida

(AP) — Fidelity National Financial Inc. has agreed to buy Lender Processing Services Inc. for about \$2.82 billion in order to broaden and diversify its business. Lender Processing is a Jacksonville, Florida-based technology company that services the mortgage and real estate industries. Fidelity National, also based in Jacksonville, provides title insurance, mortgage and other services.

Fidelity National will pay \$33.25 per share, a 1 percent premium to Lender Processing's Friday closing price of \$32.89. The companies put the cash-and-stock deal's total equity value at approximately \$2.9 billion.

Lender Processing currently has about 84.9 million outstanding shares, according to FactSet.

Fidelity National will pay 50 percent of the transaction in cash and 50 percent in stock. It anticipates issuing about 57.4 million shares of its stock to Lender Processing shareholders, or about 20.2 percent of its outstanding stock.

Fidelity National said that it will combine its ServiceLink business with Lender Processing into a new holding company once the buyout is complete. Fidelity National then plans to sell a 19 percent equity stake in the holding company for \$381 million to funds affiliated with Thomas H. Lee Partners LP. Fidelity National will keep the remaining interest in the holding company. The deal allows Lender Processing to actively seek out third-party alternative bids until July 7. Fidelity National would receive a break-up fee under various circumstances, including if Lender Processing ends its agreement with Fidelity National in favor of a superior proposal received during the "go-shop" period.

The transaction is expected to close in the fourth quarter. It still needs approval from both companies' shareholders. □

US home prices rise 10.9%, most since 2006

C. S. RUGABER
AP Economics Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) — U.S. home prices jumped 10.9 percent in March compared with a year ago, the most since April 2006. A growing number of buyers are bidding on a tight supply of homes, driving prices higher and helping the housing market recover. The Standard & Poor's/Case-Shiller home price index released Tuesday also showed that all 20 cities measured by the report posted year-over-year gains for the third straight month.

And prices rose in 15 cities in March from February. That's up from only 11 in the previous month. The monthly figures aren't seasonally adjusted and may reflect the beginning of the spring buying season.

Prices rose in Phoenix by 22.5 percent over the past 12 months, the biggest gain among cities. It was followed by San Francisco (22.2 percent) and Las Vegas (20.6 percent).

New York City had the smallest year-over-year increase at 2.6 percent, followed by Cleveland at 4.8 percent.

"Rising home prices may begin to alleviate a lack of housing inventory ... by encouraging more homeowners to put their properties on the market," said Maninder Sibia, an economist with Economic Advisory Service, in a note to clients. "The housing market is clearly improving."

The U.S. housing market is steadily recovering, buoyed by solid job gains and near-record low mortgage rates. Sales of new homes rose in April to nearly a five-year high. And sales of previously occupied homes ticked up in

April to the highest level in three and a half years.

Despite the gains, a limited number of homeowners are putting their houses on the market. That's helped lift home prices. And it's made builders more willing to ramp up construction. Applications for building permits rose in April to the highest level in nearly five years. The supply of available homes jumped in April, but was still 14 percent below its level a year earlier. Stan Humphries, chief economist at Zillow, a real estate data provider, said that the increase in the Case-Shiller index has been skewed higher by cities such as Phoenix and San Francisco. Fewer homes are available in those areas because many homeowners still owe more on their mortgages than their homes are worth. That makes it difficult to sell.

Still, even excluding those markets, home prices are rising steadily nationwide, Humphries said. The increases are "certainly confirmation that the housing market is experiencing a brisk recovery," he added. The housing recovery is creating more construction jobs and bolstering the economy in other ways. Higher home prices make homeowners feel wealthier and encourages them to spend more. □



A home is for sale in Mt. Lebanon, Pa. Standard & Poor's Case-Shiller reports on home prices in March were released Tuesday, May 28, 2013.

(AP Photo/Gene J. Puskar)

AstraZeneca to pay about \$260M for Omthera Pharma

The Associated Press
British drugmaker AstraZeneca PLC plans to spend about \$260 million on Omthera Pharmaceuticals Inc., a specialty drug developer with only 14 employees but has a potential treatment for patients who have high levels of fats called triglycerides in their blood.

AstraZeneca said Tuesday it will pay \$12.70 for each share of Omthera, which priced an initial public offering last month at \$8 per share.

The offered price represents an 87 percent premium to its closing price Friday of \$6.77.

The price of Omthera shares nearly doubled, climbing \$6.48 to \$13.25, in Tuesday morning trading. AstraZeneca said the deal totals about \$323 million when counting Omthera's cash balances.

Omthera shareholders also could receive additional payments totaling about \$120 million if the potential treatment called Epanova reaches development milestones. Those contingent value rights add up to about \$4.70 per share.

Omthera, based in Princeton, New Jersey, has completed late-stage testing on Epanova, a fish oil-based treatment. It plans

to submit the drug, which is a coated, soft gelatin capsule, to U.S. regulators for approval by the middle of this year.

Its shares closed at \$7.43 on April 11, the stock's first day of trading, and had remained below the IPO price until Tuesday morning.

Omthera also said Tuesday its first quarter loss narrowed to \$7.3 million, or \$3.08 per share, in the quarter that ended March 31. That counts preferred dividend payments and compares to a loss of about \$10.1 million, or \$6.18 per share, in last year's quarter. The company said its re-

search and development expenses fell to \$357,000 compared to about \$8 million due to the completion of late-stage research on Epanova.

The drug developer listed no revenue in a brief statement on the quarter.

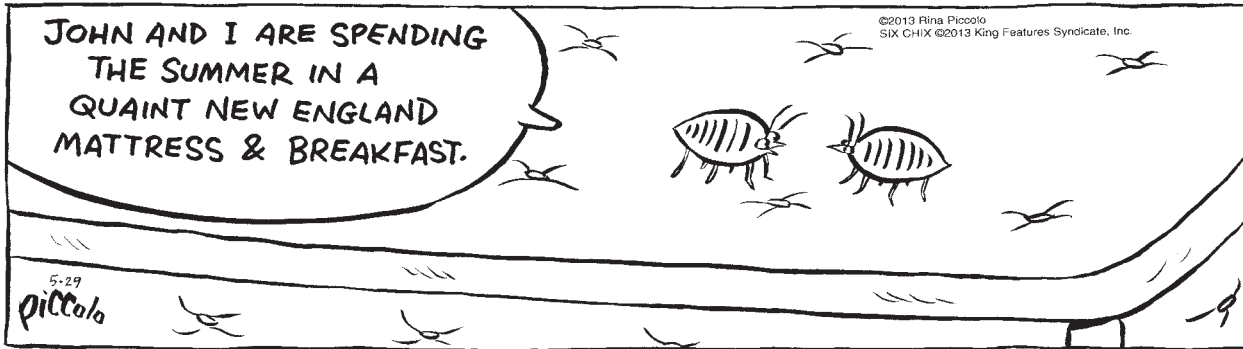
AstraZeneca said last month that its first-quarter profit fell 31 percent as generic competition for bipolar medication Seroquel IR, high blood pressure drug Atacand and cholesterol drug Crestor drove revenue down.

U.S.-traded shares of AstraZeneca rose \$1.03, or 2 percent, to \$53.20 in morning trading Tuesday. □

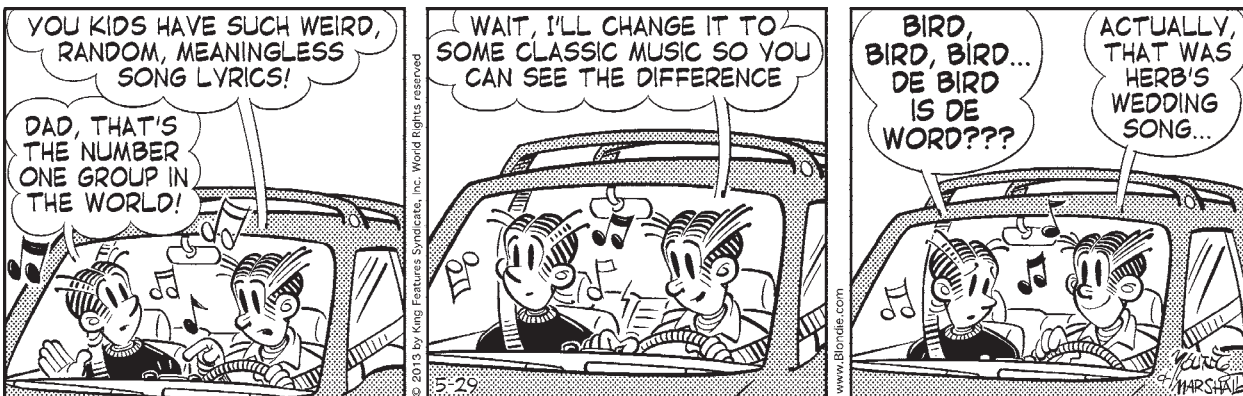
Mutts



6 Chix



Blondie



Mother Goose & Grimm



Baby Blues



Zits



Conceptis Sudoku

			6	3	7			
		2			4			
	4			9				
5				7				
9				2			4	1
7					8	3		2
	3							6
		5					9	
			3	8	6	1		

Difficulty Level ★★

5/29

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Sunday.

Yesterday's puzzle answer

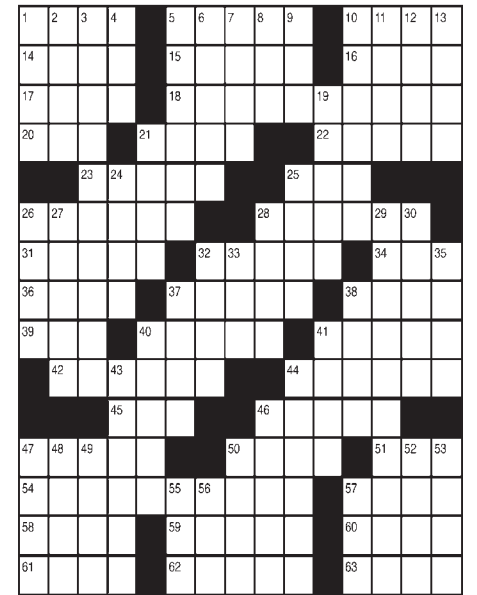
7	4	1	2	3	5	8	6	9
5	8	3	9	4	6	2	7	1
2	9	6	1	7	8	5	3	4
4	2	5	6	8	7	1	9	3
6	1	9	3	5	2	4	8	7
8	3	7	4	1	9	6	2	5
1	5	8	7	6	3	9	4	2
3	6	2	5	9	4	7	1	8
9	7	4	8	2	1	3	5	6

ACROSS

- Leak out
- Christmas song
- Club; store for members only
- Man or boy
- Sun-dried brick
- Declare openly
- friendly; easy to learn
- Throughout the whole country
- High school building
- Vatican leader
- Helped
- Burst forth
- 24-hour news network
- Vintner's establishment
- Loiter; remain
- Church table
- Devoutness
- Tree secretion
- Thailand, once
- Eccentric
- fry; meal made in a wok
- for the course; normal
- per hour; MPH
- Glow
- Energetic one
- Butterfingers
- Mamie's man
- Fraternity letter
- oneself; prepare for a shock
- Mr. Astaire
- "... the season to be jolly..."
- Jagged cut
- Blaze
- Eras
- Scoundrel
- Italy's capital
- Finest
- Irritable
- even keel; balanced

DOWN

- Self-satisfied



Tuesday's Puzzle Solved

SHE	ASCOT	PERK
EATS	CLOVE	EVEN
ARCH	RAVEN	PINE
PHENOMENA	PLOW	
KISS	CUE	
GREEKS	EMIGRATE	
NOBLE	TROTH	MEN
AMOS	RANDY	HINT
TEN	BELIE	LOSER
SOYSAUCE	PIGSTY	
INN	HUNG	
CROC	IMPARTIAL	
HOOK	TALUS	SNAP
ADZE	EMOTE	HEIR
TEEN	DATES	WRY

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- | | |
|---------------------|--------------------------|
| 35 on; victimize | 48 Hit the ceiling |
| 37 Thin coin | 49 Highest cards |
| 38 Close | 50 Desert fruits |
| 40 Creator | 52 "la Douce" |
| 41 Snow vehicle | 53 "Has Anybody My Gal?" |
| 43 Friendliest | 55 Mr. Linkletter |
| 44 VP Dick | 56 Foot digit |
| 46 Food fish | 57 To and |
| 47 Spill: the beans | |

Peace Bridge (what else?) sets off Cuomo-Canada war

DANNY HAKIM

© 2013 New York Times News Service

FORT ERIE, Ontario - New York Gov. Andrew M. Cuomo's administration is known for its combative stance toward lawmakers, bureaucrats and reporters alike.

Now, the administration has all but declared war on a new enemy: Canada. Or, at least, an arm of the Canadian government.

At issue is the 3,580-foot bridge that crosses the Niagara River between Buffalo, N.Y. and this Canadian town. It is called the Peace Bridge, though its name does not seem especially apt now.

In recent months, Cuomo's chief representative to the binational agency that manages the bridge has described his Canadian counterparts, described them as "duplicitous," criticizing their "deceitful, disrespectful and arrogant behavior."

"The fact that you ask for 'mutual respect' is nothing short of laughable," the Cuomo representative, William B. Hoyt III, told the Canadians.

The dispute began over efforts to expand the plaza on the New York side of the bridge, with Canadian members of the authority's board expressing concerns about spending far more for land than its appraised value.

Things quickly turned personal.

Hoyt, the authority's vice chairman, has tried to remove the general manager of the authority, who is a Canadian; boycotted some of the authority's board meetings; and alleged that Canadian officials were guilty of a raft of improprieties.

Cuomo allies in the New York Legislature have introduced bills to change the authority's structure.

The discord has put development projects at risk and led to a governance stalemate unlike anything in the bridge's more than eight decades of binational control.

Howard Glaser, one of



Kyle Horning, left, and Gordon Carlson fishing under the Peace Bridge on the American side in Buffalo, N.Y. New York Gov. Andrew Cuomo's handling of differences over the international bridge is giving the wider world a glimpse of how he often wields power.

(Brendan Bannon/The New York Times)

Cuomo's top aides, even wrote a letter last month to the Canadian transport minister, who controls the Canadian half of the authority's board, complaining about "years of foot-dragging."

Last week, Cuomo, in an interview with The Buffalo News, said the bridge was a "metaphor for dysfunction." The authority's chairman, Anthony M. Annunziata, a Canadian, responded that the comment was

"incredibly arrogant and insulting."

Passions have run so high that senior officials in Washington and Ottawa have gotten involved to calm both sides. In a visit to Buffalo, Sen. Charles E. Schumer, D-N.Y., urged the administration and the Canadians to "bury the hatchet."

Since taking office in 2011, Cuomo has largely shied from the national - not to mention international - stage, even as his name

is often mentioned as a Democratic presidential candidate in 2016.

But his administration's approach toward the Canadians is offering the wider world a glimpse of how Cuomo often wields power.

Governors who run for president tend to struggle to show off their foreign policy prowess. How the conflict over the Peace Bridge is resolved could thus become fodder for the next presidential campaign, should Cuomo run. The Canadians said they were taken aback by what they termed the Cuomo administration's outbursts, and are refusing direct dealings with Hoyt, a former Democratic assemblyman from the Buffalo area. "In the past, there has always been a respectful working relationship," Annunziata said.

"I've never had a relationship like this, which is, if you don't agree with me, we want you gone," he said. "And not only do we want you gone, if we can't get rid of you, we want to destroy the board." □

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Japan vows to tighten nuke safety after accident

ELAINE KURTENBACH

Associated Press

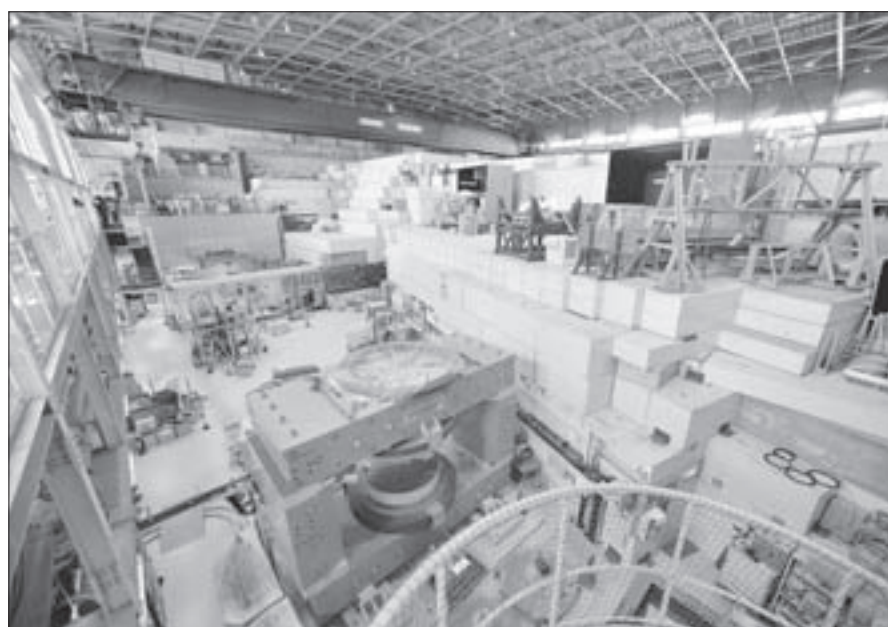
TOKYO (AP) — Japan pledged better safety practices for its troubled nuclear industry Tuesday after an accident at a government research facility that exposed 33 people to minor excess radiation and had not been immediately disclosed.

Education Minister Hakubun Shimomura, whose agency oversees research at the facility in Tokaimura, north of Tokyo, said the government will tighten oversight.

"It is crucial for a nuclear research facility to give top priority to safety measures," Shimomura said. "Their lack of safety awareness and insufficient safety management systems apparently invited the problem."

Japan's nuclear industry has been in crisis since the March 2011 accident at the tsunami-hit Fukushima Dai-ichi nuclear plant, the worst since Chernobyl in 1986. The government has revamped its regulatory regime and is drafting stricter safety standards as troubles mount.

The accident occurred Thursday at the Hadron Experimental Facility of the Japan Atomic Energy Agency's Japan Proton Accelerator Research Complex in Tokaimura, where at least two previous radiation accidents have occurred. Shimomura said the government will set up a panel to discuss reform and safety compliance at the government-run JAEA. Researchers were trying to generate particles by directing a proton beam at some gold when their equipment overheated,



In this Saturday, May 25, 2013 file photo, the inside of nuclear research lab J-PARC is seen in Tokaimura, Ibaraki prefecture.

Associated Press

causing the evaporation and release of radioactive gold, the JAEA said. The leak originally was thought to have been contained inside the lab, but it spread to other areas when a ventilation fan was switched on.

Out of 55 people tested, 22 had no excess exposure and 33 received radiation dosages of up to 1.7 millisieverts. That is about as much background radiation as a person in Japanese typically receives over a year. Nuclear workers generally are limited to 100 millisieverts of exposure over five years.

Japan's Nuclear Regulation Authority rated the accident as Level 1, or third from the lowest level on a nine-level international scale. The March 2011 accident at the tsunami-hit Fukushima Dai-ichi nuclear plant, the country's worst ever atomic energy disaster, was rated a 7, the top level on the scale.

Some 150,000 Fukushima residents are still because of that disaster. A zoning

reclassification that took effect Tuesday ended a "no-go zone" designation for areas contaminated with radiation from the Fukushima Dai-ichi plant. However, most of the areas were re-zoned as "difficult to return to" and remain off-limits. No radiation was released to the outside environment in To-

kyo, but the accident's handling and a failure by the JAEA to report the leak until more than a day later has added to concerns over safety standards and transparency in the industry. Tokaimura was the site of Japan's second-worst nuclear accident, in September

1999, when two workers were killed by a radiation leak at a fuel-reprocessing plant when they tried to save time by mixing excessive amounts of uranium in buckets instead of using special mechanized tanks. Hundreds of people were exposed to radiation, and thousands evacuated due to that accident, which was assigned a Level 4 rating on the International

Nuclear Event Scale.

In March 1997, at least 37 workers were exposed to low doses of radiation in a fire and explosion at a different nuclear reprocessing plant in Tokaimura.

Most of Japan's nuclear plants remain closed after they were shut down for safety checks after the Fukushima disaster, though Prime Minister Shinzo Abe and other top officials have said they intend to restart reactors that meet new guidelines due to be issued in July. On May 17, the president of the JAEA, Atsuyuki Suzuki, resigned after the country's nuclear watchdog announced that the Monju next-generation test reactor would not be allowed to restart due to safety violations. His resignation was followed by a decision by the watchdog to back expert research concluding that an active seismic fault runs underneath one of two reactors at an atomic plant in Tsuruga, western Japan. □

American, Russian, Italian blast off into space



U.S. astronaut Karen Nyberg, bottom, Russian cosmonaut Fyodor Yurchikhin, top, and European Space Agency astronaut Luca Parmitano, center, crew members of the mission to the International Space Station (ISS), wave prior to the launch of Soyuz-FG rocket at the Russian leased Baikonur Cosmodrome, Kazakhstan, Wednesday, May 29, 2013.

Associated Press

MOSCOW (AP) — A Soyuz carrying an American, Rus-

sian and Italian blasted off Wednesday for a six-hour trip to the International Space Station, where the new crew will spend six months conducting a variety of experiments.

The Russian spacecraft lifted off at 2:31 a.m. (2031 GMT, 4:31 p.m. EDT Tuesday) from the Baikonur Cosmodrome, which Russia leases in Kazakhstan. Live footage provided by NASA TV showed it soaring into the clear night sky. About four minutes later, the announcer said the Soyuz was traveling at 4,700 miles per hour (about 7,500 kilometers per hour). The cramped capsule carrying NASA's Karen Nyberg, Russian cosmonaut Fyodor Yurchikhin and Italy's Luca Parmitano will orbit the Earth four times before docking with the space station less than six hours after liftoff. They will join three other

people — NASA's Chris Cassidy and Russians Pavel Vinogradov and Alexander Misurkin — who have been aboard the station since late March.

Yurchikhin, 54, is a veteran of three previous spaceflights, while 36-year-old Parmitano, a former test pilot, is making his first trip into space. Nyberg, 43, spent two weeks in space in 2008 as part of a U.S. space shuttle crew.

Four spacewalks are planned during the expedition, including what NASA said would be the first by an Italian.

The International Space Station is the biggest orbiting outpost ever built and can sometimes be seen from Earth with the naked eye. It consists of more than a dozen modules built by the United States, Russia, Canada, Japan and the European Space Agency. □

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This April 25, 2012 file photo shows actor Rob Lowe posing for a portrait in New York.

Associated Press

Rob Lowe cast as JFK in National Geographic film

NEW YORK (AP) — Rob Lowe will portray President John F. Kennedy in a National Geographic film about the former president's 1963 assassination.

The National Geographic Channel said Tuesday that filming for "Killing Kennedy" would begin next month in Richmond, Va.

The film is expected to air around the 50th anniversary

of the shooting later this year and is based on the book by Bill O'Reilly.

National Geographic already had a hit earlier this year with an adaptation of another of the Fox News Channel anchor's books, "Killing Lincoln."

In addition to Lowe, the movie will feature Ginnifer Goodwin as the first lady and Michelle Trachtenberg as Marina Oswald. □

Panama's Ruben Blades joins cast of Duran biopic



In this April 16, 2010 file photo, Panama's Ruben Blades sings in concert during his "Todos Vuelven" tour in Quito, Ecuador.

Associated Press

PANAMA CITY, Panama (AP) — Panama's most famous performer is joining the cast of a movie about its most famous boxer.

Filmmaker Jonathan Jakubowicz says singer Ruben Blades will take part in the film "Hands of Stone," which is scheduled for release next year.

The film focuses on the life of Roberto Duran.

The Harvard-educated

Blades is one of the biggest stars in Latin music and also has served as Panama's tourism minister. In the film, he will play boxing promoter Carlos Elea.

The movie also stars Robert De Niro, Usher and Edgar Ramirez.

In Tuesday's news release, Blades refers to Duran as a friend and as "one of the most illustrious Panamanians we have." □

With 'Arrested,' 'Archer,' prime time for Walter

MICHAEL CIDONI LENNOX
AP Entertainment Reporter
LOS ANGELES (AP) —

There was a time when Jessica Walter couldn't get "Arrested."

In 2003, the Emmy-winning actress read the script for "Arrested Development" and wanted the role of Lucille Bluth, the monstrous matriarch of the quirky sitcom's decidedly dysfunctional family.

"But they weren't seeing me," Walter recalled, referring to the show's producers. "Yeah, tragic, isn't it?" she continued, with a sly smile.

Walter eventually got the gig, and "Arrested Development" would go on to win a 2004 Emmy for outstanding comedy series.

"It's exposed me to a demographic of people who thought I was sick or dead,"

commented the 72-year-old Walter, who was probably best known for playing the stalker in Clint Eastwood's 1971 thriller "Play Misty for Me" until "Arrested Development" debuted in 2003.

"Arrested" was never a ratings hit, and FOX canceled it in 2006. But now the show is back with 15 all-new fourth-season episodes, which just debuted exclusively on Netflix.

The new "Arrested" season is structurally different from the first three, with each episode dedicated to catching viewers up on a single character. Kristin Wiig plays the young Lucille.

An "Arrested Development" movie may be next. Walter also gets prestigious enterprise billing on another current series, the FX 'toon "Archer," which is something of a James Bond movie meeting TV's "The Office." Walter voices intelligence-agency chief Mallory Archer. The plots are so twisted, scripts so pop-culture crammed, "half of the time, I don't even understand what's going on," Walter said.



This April 29, 2013 file photo shows Jessica Walter at the season 4 premiere of "Arrested Development" at the TCL Chinese Theatre, in Los Angeles.

Associated Press

With "Arrested Development" back and "Archer" just renewed after a season of record-breaking ratings, it appears to be prime time for the veteran actress.

"You know, you're bringing tears to my eyes, because I know how lucky I am," Walter responded. "I hope to be Betty White. I want to be working when I'm 92." □

Rick Springfield to publish debut novel in 2014



This March 13, 2013 file photo shows actor-singer Rick Springfield at a screening of his movie "Sound City" during the SXSW Film and Music Festival, in Austin, Texas.

Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — Creative writing was Rick Springfield's first love, and he's returning to it with his debut novel.

A Tuesday news release

says the musician-actor will release "Magnificent Vibration" in May 2014 on the Simon & Schuster imprint Touchstone.

Springfield is best known as the multi-platinum "Jessie's Girl" singer and "General Hospital" star, but his memoir "Late, Late at Night" was a surprise New York Times best-seller. He said in the statement the experience "reminded me how much I love the craft."

Springfield's novel is about a tough-times protagonist who receives a 1-800 phone connection with God through a self-help book. The book comes during a busy period for the musician. □

Title of new Bridget Jones novel revealed

LONDON (AP) — Everyone's favorite literary singleton will return in a new novel entitled "Bridget Jones: Mad About the Boy."

Publishers disclosed the title of Helen Fielding's forthcoming book on Tuesday. It continues the comic saga of diary-writing Bridget's romantic and professional adventures.

The character, introduced to readers in two 1990s' novels, now must cope with an age of text messaging and social media. Fielding said Bridget is older now and her "life has moved on. But, the question is, just how much?" The previous books, "Bridget Jones's Diary" and



This Jan. 20, 2002 file photo shows Helen Fielding, author of "Bridget Jones's Diary," at the 59th Annual Golden Globe Awards in Beverly Hills, Calif. Associated Press

"Bridget Jones: The Edge of Reason," sold 15 million copies between them and were adapted into movies starring Renee Zellweger. The new book will be published Oct. 10 in Britain by Jonathan Cape, and Oct. 15 in the U.S. by Alfred A. Knopf. □

Oprah calls Kelly and Michael talk-show royalty



This image released by Disney-ABC Domestic Television shows actor-director-producer Tyler Perry, left, with Oprah Winfrey, and co-hosts Kelly Ripa, second right, and Michael Strahan, right, on "Live with Kelly and Michael," on Tuesday, May 28, 2013 in New York.

Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — Oprah Winfrey doesn't have a daily talk show anymore. But two years after abdicating her throne, the former talk-show queen is clear who she thinks now wear the crowns: Kelly Ripa and Michael Strahan. Winfrey declared the co-hosts "the reigning king and queen" during a surprise appearance on Tuesday's "Live with Kelly and Michael." Winfrey, who now runs the OWN cable

network, where she appears on-camera on a less-frequent basis, insisted she doesn't miss the daily talk-show grind. She was brought on "Live," unannounced, by guest Tyler Perry. He is now producing shows for her network. Perry's new drama, "The Haves and the Have Nots," was scheduled to premiere Tuesday night. His new comedy, "Love Thy Neighbor," debuts Wednesday. □



This July 19, 2010 file photo shows singer Sheryl Crow posing for a portrait in New York. Crow's latest release, "Feels Like Home," will be released on Sept. 10.

Associated Press

Sheryl Crow undergoes a country conversion

CHRIS TALBOTT
AP Music Writer

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (AP) — For a couple of months now, Sheryl Crow has been loading her two young boys aboard a bus and taking off on a tour of country music radio stations around the country. She's visiting with DJs and programming directors, playing a few songs live, then hopping back on the bus to do it again a few hours down the road. It reminds her, fittingly, of a scene from "Coal Miner's Daughter," the life story of Loretta Lynn.

"It really is like the scene where Doo zips up Loretta's dress and she runs in with her new acetate, her 45, and says, 'Here's my new record,' and she plays something on air, shakes a few hands and leaves," Crow said. "It really is a throwback to that and it's the most organic thing I've done in years."

The image is fitting. It was Lynn's handwritten note asking Crow to appear with the honky-tonk queen on the 2010 Country Music Association Awards that started this journey toward the genre for the 51-year-old singer-songwriter.

She has a single, "Easy,"

at country radio and will release her first country-oriented album, "Feels Like Home," on Sept. 10.

Crow recently spoke with The Associated Press about her new album, life in Nashville and continued questions about her former relationship with Lance Armstrong.

When Crow finished that performance with Lynn and Miranda Lambert, Brad Paisley met her backstage and beseeched her to come home to the format she really belonged in. She'd had some success at country in the past, teaming with Kid Rock on "Picture" in 2002. The song was a modest hit and even scored them a vocal event of the year nomination at the 2003 Country Music Association Awards.

Crow thought about it and Paisley's message took hold. But it meant she would have to change things up and embrace Nashville's country music culture. Eventually, he helped kick start the new record, suggested producer Justin Niebank and introduced her to songwriter Chris Dubois, who served as a co-writer and informal song editor. She changed her songwriting tack, looking to match

the more visceral, story-telling style of the genre.

And no one succeeds in country music without courting radio — thus the bus.

Most of country music's biggest stars started that way and Crow — 20 years after releasing her first album, the five times platinum "Tuesday Night Music Club" — didn't see herself as exempt, no matter how many millions of albums she's already sold.

The first day of radio tour she hit larger markets like Knoxville and Chattanooga in Tennessee, Atlanta, Orlando, Fla., and some privately owned stations in smaller towns, too. One day, three states. Welcome to country.

"I say that it's fun, but it's the hardest thing I've ever done," Crow said. "Because sitting on the bus and only getting the gratification of only playing like a couple of songs, and then driving for two more hours and then getting to play a couple more songs. It's really hard, but it's great, you know? ... I've felt really embraced."

The aptly titled "Feels Like Home" serves as a figurative mile marker in her personal life as well. □

Obamacare's Other Surprise



THOMAS L. FRIEDMAN

© 2013 New York Times Listening to the debate about President Barack Obama's health care plan, some critics argue that Obamacare is going to need Obamacare - because it's going to be a "train wreck." Obama officials insist they're wrong. We'll just have to wait and see whether the Affordable Care Act, as the health care law is officially known, surprises us on the downside. But there is one area where the law already appears to be surprising on the upside. And that is the number of health care information startups it's spurring. This is a big deal. The combination of Obamacare regulations, incentives in the recovery act for doctors and hospitals to shift to electronic records and the releasing of mountains of data held by the Department of Health and Human Services is creating a new marketplace and platform for innovation - a health care Silicon Valley - that has the potential to create better outcomes at lower costs by changing how health data are stored, shared and mined. It's a new industry. Obamacare is based on the notion that a main reason we pay so much more than any other industrial nation for health care, without better results, is because the incentive structure in our system is wrong. Doctors and hospitals are paid primarily for procedures and tests, not health outcomes. The goal of the health care law is to flip this fee-for-services system (which some insurance companies are emulating) to one where the government pays doctors and hospitals to keep Medicare patients healthy and the services they do render are reimbursed more for their value than volume. To do this, though, doctors and hospitals need instant access to data about patients - diagnoses, medications, test results, procedures and potential gaps in care that need to be addressed. As long as this information was stuffed into manila folders in doctors' offices and hospitals, and not turned into electronic records, it was difficult to execute these kinds of analyses. That is changing. According to the Obama administration, thanks to incentives in the recovery act there has been nearly a tripling since 2008 of electronic records installed by office-based physicians, and a quadrupling by hospitals. The Health and Human Services Department connected me with some startups and doctors who've benefited from all this, including Dr. Jen Brull, a family medicine specialist in Plainville, Kan., who said that she was certain she had been alerting her relevant patients to have colorectal cancer screening - until she looked at the data in her

new electronic health care system and discovered that only 43 percent of those who should be getting the screening had done so. She improved it to 90 percent by installing alerts in her electronic health records, and this led to the early detection of cancer in three patients - and early surgery that saved these patients' lives and also substantial health care expense. Todd Park, the White House's chief technology officer, said many new apps being developed have been further fueled by the decision by Health and Human Services to make available massive amounts of data that it had gathered over the years but had largely not been accessible in computer readable forms that could be used to improve health care.

It started in March 2010 when Health and Human Services met with "45 rather skeptical entrepreneurs," said Park, "and rather meekly put an initial pile of HHS data in front of them - aggregate data on hospital quality, nursing home patient satisfaction and regional health care system performance. We asked the entrepreneurs what, if anything, they might be able to do with this data, if we made it supereasy to find, download and use." They were told that in 90 days the department would hold a "Health Datapalooza," - a public event to showcase innovators who harnessed the power of this data to improve health and care. Ninety days later, entrepreneurs showed up and demonstrated more than 20 new or upgraded apps they had built that leveraged open data to do everything from helping patients find the best health care providers to enabling health care leaders to better understand patterns of health care system performance across communities, said Park. In 2012, another "Health Datapalooza" was held, and this time, he added, "1,600 entrepreneurs and innovators packed into rooms at the Washington Convention Center, hearing presentations from about 100 companies who were selected from a field of over 230 companies who had applied to present." Most had been started in the last 24 months.

Among the startups I met with are Eviti, which uses technology to help cancer patients get the right combination of drugs or radiation from Day 1, which can lower costs and improve outcomes; Teladoc, which takes unused slices of doctors' time and makes use of it by connecting them with remote patients, reducing visits to emergency wards; Humedica, which helps health care providers analyze their electronic patient records, tracking what was done to a patient, and did they actually get better; and Lumeris, which does health care analytics that uses real-time data about every aspect of a patient's care, to improve medical decision-making, collaboration and cost-saving. Obamacare will be a success only if it can deliver improved health care for more people at affordable prices. That remains to be seen. But at least it is already spurring the innovation necessary to make that happen. □



Can 44 Subtract 43 From The Equation?



MAUREEN DOWD

© 2013 New York Times

DALLAS - Do we dare to hope that the Bush administration is finally at an end?

After four years of bending the Constitution, the constitutional law professor now in the White House is trying to unloose the Gordian knot of W.'s martial and moral overreaches after 9/11. Safely re-elected, President Obama at long last spoke bluntly about the Faustian deals struck by his predecessor, some of them cravenly continued by his own administration.

In a speech at the National Defense University, Obama talked about how we "compromised our basic values," and he concluded with a slap at W.: "Our victory against terrorism won't be measured in a surrender ceremony at a battleship or a statue being pulled to the ground."

On the eve of the president's speech, I was at the George W. Bush Presidential Library and Museum here, watching the film of Saddam's statue being pulled to the ground.

It's remarkable that Obama is trying to escape the shadow of the Bush presidency just as W. is trying to escape the shadow of the Bush presidency. Browsing the library, you wonder if these two presidents are complete opposites after all, as you see how history was shaped by an arrogant, press-averse, father-fixated, history-obsessed, strangely introverted chief executive.

Robert Draper, the author of

"Dead Certain: The Presidency of George W. Bush," perused the library with me and observed: "So 43 grew up entitled but could display a commoner's touch, while 44 grew up hardscrabble yet developed this imperial mien. The former is defined by incuriosity, the latter by self-absorption. One is a late-blooming artist, the other a precocious writer. They can each make you kind of miss the other." Obama's compelling speech on Thursday was his way of saying he didn't want the seductive but morally dicey drone program he inherited from W. to define his own presidency. The way it had been going, one of the killer robots, hanging from the ceiling, might have made a fitting centerpiece for an Obama library. W.'s library highlights his role in launching the Global War on Terror, an Orwellian phrase designed to conflate the sins of Osama, who was responsible for 9/11, and the sins of Saddam, who was not. That was the fatal mistake and hallmark of the Bush era. W., Dick Cheney and Donald Rumsfeld declared war on a tactic, stoked fear as a smoke screen and treated pre-emptive attacks as just. Better late than never, Obama brought his lapidary logic and legal cautions to bear. "Neither I nor any president can promise the total defeat of terror," he said. "We will never erase the evil that lies in the hearts of some human beings nor stamp out every danger to our open society." Conservatives can honk, as Sen. Saxby Chambliss did, that Obama's speech "will be viewed by terrorists as a victory." But this president has killed more top al-Qaida operatives than Bush did. While W.'s bullhorn vow after 9/11 to catch the "people who knocked these buildings down" plays every few minutes at his library, I couldn't find any photos of Osama or acknowledgment of Bush's failure to catch him. Obama's library will have a wing for that feat.

You could fill an entire other library with what's not in W.'s. Cheney and Rummy have been

largely disappeared, and it is Condi Rice who narrates the 9/11 video. You won't see the iconic "Mission Accomplished" photo, or that painful video in which W. keeps reading "The Pet Goat" to children after learning that America is under attack, or the notorious "flyover" photo of a desultory Bush jetting from Crawford to the White House and looking through the window of Air Force One at Katrina's devastation.

Decision Points Theater - a whiny "Well, you try being the Decider" enterprise - lets you make the decisions after getting taped briefings on W.'s crises from actors playing experts. But it is rigged with so many false binary options that the visitors I voted with ended up agreeing with Bush's patently wrong calls on Iraq and Katrina. Mostly, aside from the word "freedom" reverberating endlessly, we see the kinder, gentler W. conjured by Laura the Librarian. The once-shielded twins are ubiquitous, as is Barney. (An interactive game lets you help Barney find his ball.)

The big display on W.'s stellar record on AIDS in Africa features a letter from the president on White House stationery with the salutation, "Yo Bono!"

You can be forgiven for thinking you've wandered into the Gore presidential library when you come upon a wall devoted to protection of the ocean and odes to "vital wetlands" and "marine habitats." Who knew W. was passionately on the side of the humphead parrotfish?

Proving that the library is more a monument to Laura's artful airbrushing than W.'s artless leadership, there's a swank Café 43 with fancier fare than W.'s cherished PB&J's, and a gift shop featuring Laura's favorite books, from Dostoyevsky's "Brothers Karamazov" to Truman Capote's "Music for Chameleons."

W. missed a bet not selling reproductions of his charming nude self-portraits and Barney paintings on posters, T-shirts and dog bowls. Far more interesting than packets of Texas bluebonnet seeds. □

Only The Food Is Exotic

HELENE STAPINSKI

© 2013 New York Times

When I was growing up in the 1970s in Hudson County, N.J., there was plenty to complain about: toxic waste, political corruption, blighted buildings. The one thing people never knocked was the food. Our mothers made meatballs. Our aunts fashioned pirogi. My father brought home lobster and steaks that "fell off the back of the truck" at the frozen-food warehouse near the mouth of the Holland Tunnel.

And then there were the restaurants. From the edge of Jersey City to the tip of North Hudson on a 10-mile stretch that faces Manhattan, we had everything from first-class red sauce joints to authentic curry houses to some of the best pressed Cubanos north of Miami.

I moved to Brooklyn 20 years ago, a place many have declared a world-class food capital. But me? My taste buds never really left Jersey City, my hometown.

Eating there has become even better over the decades, so I'm always surprised to find that Hudson County's bounty is mostly ignored by my fellow New Yorkers.

Although Manhattanites think nothing of taking a 40-minute train ride to Astoria, Queens, in search of the latest obscure dish, you have to practically drag them at knife point to the PATH train for the 10-minute ride to New Jersey.

"When I tell people I have a restaurant in Jersey City, they ask, 'Do you need a passport to go there?'" said Ralph Rodriguez, the owner of Marco & Pepe, an 11-year-old cafe near the Grove Street PATH station. "And I get mad because it's closer than Brooklyn."

Once the rail hub for Ellis Island, Jersey City is one of the most ethnically diverse cities on the planet. Combine that melting-pot pedigree with good Jersey produce and some of the best

bakeries in the region, and you can find terrific meals - and at half the price of similar fare in Manhattan.

Jersey City has one of the nation's largest Egyptian Coptic communities and a large number of Filipino restaurants (at last count, there were 15). Little India, with nine restaurants on Newark Avenue alone, puts its East Village counterpart to shame. Just a few blocks from where I grew up is Thirty Acres, which drew great reviews last year when it opened and was named one of Bon Appétit's top 50 new restaurants in the United States.

My tour of Hudson County's well-kept secrets starts with the cuisine I know most intimately. Within a meatball's throw of one another are four classic red-sauce places: Casa Dante, with its jacketed waiters; Rita & Joe's, where I've drowned my sorrows at many a funeral repast; 15 Fox Place, a dining club with a six-course Italian prix fixe; and not too far away, the swellegant Puccini's.

My family's favorite is Laico's, hidden on a residential street in the Greenville neighborhood. No matter how many times I go, I always get lost among the rows of aluminum-sided houses.

"When my father first decided to buy the place, he told a friend where it was, and the guy said, 'What, are you crazy?'" said the chef, Louis Laico. "But location isn't everything."

Laico has been cooking there since 1975, catering to neighbors, local politicians, hotel guests from the tonier downtown section and natives, like me, who have moved away and miss the sauce. Meals here start with a salad with Laico's secret-recipe dressing, which must be sopped up with the dense Italian bread delivered by the famous Dom's Bakery in Hoboken (which also supplies Piccolo's).

The seafood salad is so tender it's worth driving hours for, as my sister on the Jersey Shore will attest. The eggplant parm is my Italian mom's favorite ("sliced nice and thin," she says). There's homemade poundcake, but I've never had enough room. It gives me a little extra something to look forward to when I'm lost in Greenville next time.

Just north of Jersey City is Hoboken, a mile-square town packed with more than 300 restaurants. When I was a child, hardly anyone ever went to Hoboken (the only place tougher than Jersey City) with its



Brother Biggie (Michael Yaccarino) shucks clams at Biggie's Clam Bar, which serves crab cakes, in Hoboken, N.J., March 1, 2013. Jersey City, an ethnically diverse area, has some of the best bakeries in the region, where one can find terrific meals in a variety of ethnically different restaurants, like Biggie's Clam Bar in nearby Hoboken, and at half the price of similar fare in Manhattan.

(Tony Cenicola/The New York Times)

longshoremen saloons and streets I wouldn't walk down alone.

One of my first boyfriends grew up there and showed me the beauty that was old-school Hoboken. Af-

ter a tour of every "On the Waterfront" filming location, he took me to Biggie's Clam Bar and persuaded me to eat my first raw little-neck. He introduced me to Brother Biggie, then in his 50s (now 82), a short, joyful man with a smile for every customer who walks in, whether it's the first time or the 1,000th. Brother Biggie, Michael Yaccarino, inherited the business from his father, the original Biggie, who started in the 1940s with a pushcart, going door to door to all the bars at the back end of town.

The menu of clams, burgers and hot dogs has grown to include seafood bisque and a meaty crab cake, not just in Hoboken but also in a new location in Carlstadt, feeding all those Hobokenites who have moved to Bergen County. Last April they opened their newest place uptown, on the site that used to be the Clam Broth House, a 113-year-old Hoboken institution. □



Outside of Laico's, an Italian restaurant on a residential street, in Jersey City, N.J., Feb. 7, 2013.

(Tony Cenicola/The New York Times)